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FINANCIAL TIMES

EUROPE'S BUSINESS NEWSPAPER

No. 30,422

Wednesday December 23 1987

D 8523 A

Czech Communist Party leader faces uphill battle, Page 2

World News Business Summary

Mugabe and Nkomo sign merger agreement fastest computer

Zimbabwean Prime Minister Robert Mugabe and opposition leader Joshua Nkomo signed an agreement to merge their political parties, paving the way for a one-party state. The merger of the two parties will give Mr Mugabe all but one of the 140 seats in the two-tier parliament. Page 14

Gelli sentenced
Italian financier Licio Gelli was sentenced by a Geneva court to a suspended term of 10 months for bribing a witness who helped him escape from a Swiss prison in 1983. Page 2

Peking assurance
Igor Rogachev, the Soviet deputy Foreign Minister, wound up two days of talks with Chinese officials by saying the results of the Washington summit would help contribute to better Sino-Soviet relations. Page 3

Eagle flies home
An American bald eagle, found exhausted and starving in Ireland after flying across the Atlantic, winged its way home first class by jet with a head-off from Irish Prime Minister Charles Haughey.

Spanish lottery
Spain ground to a halt yesterday as its Christmas lottery, the world's biggest, showered \$745m among winners.

Korean talks
Kim Young Sam, defeated South Korean presidential candidate, has changed his mind and decided to enter into talks with the ruling party over National Assembly elections next year. Page 5

Women's rights
Mozambique has amended a law under which women married to foreign husbands lost their nationality - the new law gives them the right to choose their nationality.

Quebec candidate
Jacques Parizeau, Quebec's Finance Minister from 1976 to 1984, will run for the leadership of the opposition Independent Parti Quebecois. Page 4

Shake-down cruise
The world's newest cruise liner, the French-built Sovereign of the Seas, sets out across the Atlantic Ocean next Tuesday on a shake-down voyage before its maiden cruise in the Caribbean.

Border reopens
The Kenya-Uganda border has reopened following violent border clashes last week.

Sudanese advance
Sudan said yesterday its troops had captured the town of Kurmuk on the border with Ethiopia nearly seven weeks after it was taken by rebels.

Yugoslav strikes
Strikes by Yugoslav bus drivers demanding big pay-rises paralysed the cities of Banjaluka and Koper.

Trade agreement
Zimbabwe and Botswana have averted the threat of a trade war by agreeing to extend a 31-year-old trade agreement for a further three months.

Kabul attack
Afghan guerrillas hit Kabul with bombs and rockets killing more than 20 people as a major Government offensive was under way.

Serbian president
Retired General Peter Gracanin has been elected president of the Yugoslav republic of Serbia.

Iraqi raid
Iraqi aircraft attacked Iran's Larak Island off terminal at the mouth of the Gulf, setting three tankers ablaze. Page 8

Somali shuffle
Somali President Mohamed Siad Barre named new ministers of foreign affairs, finance and defence.

Plenty of room in Bethlehem's inns, but no tourists

BY OUR ISRAELI CORRESPONDENT IN BETHLEHEM

THIS IS a good Christmas for business here, but not for tourists. The town of Bethlehem, with its tangerines and burning incense, is a good year for the town's 10,000 residents. But even before this I had the impression that very few people were coming.

Hotellers and tour operators are worried that the present peace will hit bookings for the Holy Land's other peak season, Easter and the Jewish Passover.

People tend to plan their trips three or four months ahead. A travel agent in Arab East Jerusalem reported yesterday that 45 per cent of his February bookings had already been cancelled.

Mr Avraham Sharir, Israeli Tourism Minister, announced yesterday that a record 1.2m visitors came to Israel in 1987, an increase of 25 per cent on 1986. Next year looks like being less rosy.

US criticism of Gaza policy, Page 14

quencies in Bethlehem," Mr Freil said. "It will discourage pilgrims and tourists from coming and other governments will follow suit. But even before this I had the impression that very few people were coming."

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US criticism of Gaza policy, Page 14



The streets of Gaza were quiet yesterday after two weeks of violent demonstrations during which at least 21 Palestinians have been killed in clashes with Israeli forces

First Boston to sell stake in building

By Roderick Cross in New York

FIRST BOSTON, a leading Wall Street securities firm, hit by heavy trading losses this year, expects to reap a \$80m pre-tax profit from selling its interest in the company's Manhattan headquarters.

In a complex deal announced yesterday, First Boston sold its 22 per cent stake in Park Avenue Plaza to its partner, Fisher Brothers, a New York property firm, paid off a second mortgage and cashed in its equity in its office leases by raising them from below market value to market value.

"In effect we translated the value of these pieces into cash," a senior executive said. Both parties declined to state the overall value of the transactions.

First Boston said it will continue to occupy about 40 per cent of the one million square foot mid-town skyscraper which was completed in 1981.

It was the second major New York property deal in three weeks involving a Wall Street firm. Previously, Salomon Inc, parent of Salomon Brothers, decided to drop out of the controversial Coliseum office building project, resulting in a \$51m after-tax fourth quarter charge.

Salomon said, following staff cuts and a major restructuring, it would have enough office space in its current downtown buildings.

Wall Street firms have been scrambling to cut costs and raise cash to repair the damage inflicted by October's stock market crash. It is believed, however, that First Boston began negotiating with Fisher Brothers much earlier this year.

Last month, First Boston told its employees it had been in the red in October because of "significant losses" from speculating on takeover stocks during the crash. It was, however, the "only major problem" from the market plunge, Mr Peter Buchanan, chief executive, added.

Although the firm declined to specify the size of the risk arbitrage loss, it was widely believed on Wall Street that the sum exceeded \$60m.

A number of other firms, including L.P. Rothchild, suffered similar losses after plunging stock prices prompted many suitors to drop takeovers.

First Boston also suffered badly during April's collapse in bond prices with losses estimated by outside analysts to be around \$100m.

The firm disbanded the team responsible for saving the risks of the trading strategies were excessive.

It was one of the sharpest reminders yet of Wall Street's great difficulties in analysing and controlling the risks involved in trading certain new types of financial instruments.

OECD says market crisis will cause economic slowdown

BY IAN DAVIDSON IN PARIS

THE CONSEQUENCES of the world stock market and financial crisis which erupted in late October are likely to be a modest if sustained weakening of economic growth in the industrialised world, according to the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development.

But the OECD warns that the overall international economic situation could become more serious if financial markets were not persuaded that enough was being done to restore international payments imbalances.

In Europe, where unemployment is very high and likely to rise, the OECD suggests in its semi-annual economic outlook that the impact of the crisis-induced slowdown could be offset by appropriate joint action.

European countries now face a clear challenge of devising and implementing policies that would improve their economic prospects individually and as a group.

room for manoeuvre. In France, the short-term outlook for activity is weak, but improving it depends on lower interest rates and a better export performance.

The British growth rate has been buoyant, but inflation and wage increases are out of line with those elsewhere. Economic growth in Italy is vulnerable to the budget deficit, the fragility of the external position.

The new overall projection for economic growth in the OECD area has been reduced by 0.4 percentage point in both 1988 and 1989, to 2.4 per cent in 1988 and 1.6 per cent in 1989.

These projections remain broadly unchanged from those published six months ago, but the overall aggregates contain significant changes for individual countries.

The US growth rate is expected to be 4 percentage point. Continued on Page 14

Reagan approves budget deficit-cutting package

BY OUR FOREIGN AND ECONOMICS STAFF

PRESIDENT Ronald Reagan yesterday signed a deficit-reduction package combining spending and tax measures forged after the Wall Street collapse, saying it will place our country on the right course.

"There's still more to be done," Mr Reagan said in a White House Oval Office ceremony at which he used eight points to sign the thick stacks of legislation.

While commenting on the package, the President also criticised lawmakers for cramming so much into two bills.

"While I agree with these bills at this time, it must be said that we are wrapping up the entire legislative business of our country into two thousand-page bills on the eve of Christmas is not the way to do business," he said.

The President said the package would "place our country on the right course toward reducing the federal budget deficit and continuing the longest peacetime expansion in history."

His approval will pave the way for a statement by the Group of Seven leading industrial nations re-affirming their commitment to international economic co-operation.

The other part is a \$17.5bn tax and entitlement bill, which contains \$9bn in new taxes for next year, cuts in Medicare costs and farm subsidy reductions.

About \$7.5bn of the deficit reduction would be accounted for by government loans, including US military loans to foreign countries.

The US could also gain \$20m to \$25m from legislation which exempts American corporations double taxation relief on profits earned and taxed in South Africa.

Altogether, the package should meet the target of reducing the deficit for this fiscal year set by the White House-Congressional budget negotiating teams earlier this year.

Senior officials involved in drafting the G7 statement said its looser wording on the dollar in part reflected US reluctance to commit itself to defending any particular level.

Continued on Page 14

Europe may move over BCal

BY TIM DICKSON IN BRUSSELS AND MICHAEL DONNE IN LONDON

THE EUROPEAN Commission disclosed last night that it may take legal action to challenge certain aspects of the newly agreed takeover by British Airways of British Caledonian Group, the UK airline.

Officials in Brussels are understood to have been in touch with BA and drawn attention to conditions attached to the £250m (\$457m) takeover which the commission says contravenes the European Community's competition rules.

In particular, the question of BA's new route concentration in London is being challenged.

plait with the commission in Brussels aimed at blocking the takeover.

Mr Bishop's group cited several examples in which it believed the takeover failed to satisfy many aspects of European law recently reinforced by successful judgments in the European Court against similar mergers.

These examples included the BA's dominant market position after the takeover and the airline's ability to block other bidders for European route licences.

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OECD ANNUAL OUTLOOK

Governments must act to avoid threat of recession

BY PHILIP STEPHENS, ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

INDUSTRIALISED countries face a weakening in the pace of economic growth in the wake of the stock market crash and, without prompt policy action, they run the risk that renewed turmoil in financial markets could provoke a recession.

In its latest Outlook, the Paris-based Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development says that the slide in equity prices in October will probably reduce growth by one percentage point over the next two years.

The impact, however, could be much greater if governments do not act quickly to underpin stability on financial markets. In particular, the OECD calls for further action in the US to cut the budget deficit, for additional measures to stimulate economic growth in West Germany and further liberalisation in Japan.

It warns that, without such measures, efforts to stabilise exchange rates at a particular level - as in the Louvre accord in February - are likely to prove fruitless and may be counter-productive.

On the assumption of unchanged policies and exchange rates, the Outlook foresees a rise in the output of its 34 member countries of 2.25 per cent next year, down from 2.75 per cent in 1987. In 1989 the pace of expansion can be expected to slow further to 1.75 per cent.

It says that there are positive signs that the large imbalances in the world economy - the huge US current account deficit and the surpluses in Japan and West Germany - are being gradually eroded.

Partly because of the stronger impact of the stock market slide in the US, the balance between

BRITAIN'S economic growth rate should continue to outpace that of other European states in 1988, but the gap is likely to close in the second half of the year, the OECD says.

In its review of prospects for the next two years, the organisation also warns that, without a further depreciation in sterling, Britain faces a marked deterioration in its overseas trade position.

The unexpectedly strong rise in output seen in 1987 should carry into the first months of 1988, the outlook says. That will mean that year-on-year comparisons are likely to show a growth of 2.75 per cent next year.

Overall growth and domestic demand in the three main economies is improving. Demand in the US is expected to grow more rapidly than the economy as a whole, while the reverse is projected for Japan and West Germany.

Although the US trade deficit has not yet shrunk in nominal terms, "significant adjustment is taking place in trade flows in volume terms." US exports have risen by about 10 percentage points more than the growth rate for the country's traditional markets in 1987, and similar gains in market share can be expected for the next two years. In parallel, Japan and West Germany have suffered losses in market share and are likely to continue to do so.

The Outlook projects a fall in

Weaker exports and some slowing in domestic demand are expected to result in a deceleration in the pace of expansion to an annual rate of 1.75 per cent in the second half of the year and in 1989. On that basis, the recent downward trend in unemployment may continue for some months, but the jobs total could then begin to rise again.

The OECD says that Britain's export performance is likely to be hit by a number of factors. The general slowdown in growth in the industrialised world will limit demand for British goods. At the same time, Britain's competitive position will be damaged both by the recent strength of sterling and by higher inflation.

The inflation rate is expected to remain fairly steady, with consumer prices rising at an annual rate of 4.25 to 4.5 per cent, with unit labour costs accelerating as the pace of productivity expansion slows.

Of the surplus countries, the report singles out West Germany for special criticism. The Bonn Government, it says, needs to do more to accelerate growth in its economy, both as a contribution to the adjustment of the imbalances and to allow faster growth in the rest of Europe.

"Even taking account of the 1988 tax cuts and discounting any adverse direct effects of the stock market crash, the German economy may continue to grow below its medium-term potential over the remainder of the 1980s," it says.

While the rest of Europe can expect its current account position to improve, the OECD says, the US trade gap begins to close. West Germany is likely to experience only a small reduction in its surplus.

tion in the UK than in most other major industrial countries.

With imports remaining relatively buoyant, the deficit on the current account of the balance of payments is expected to double to \$5.75bn (\$3.25bn) in 1988 and widen further to \$9.5bn (\$5.5bn) in 1989. The OECD adds, however, that such a deterioration assumes that the exchange rate holds at its current levels.

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In those circumstances, Bonn should employ both macro and micro-economic policies geared towards promoting faster expansion.

The organisation welcomes the recent acceleration in the pace of output growth in Japan, but says that the Tokyo Government must ensure that it is maintained over the next two years. Even with faster growth, Japan's current account surplus is projected to remain at around \$80bn, so the Government should use this period to promote faster progress towards structural adjustment of the economy as envisaged in the Miyakawa report last year.

In its review of monetary policies, the Outlook welcomes the response of central banks to the stock market crash in lowering interest rates. It adds, however, that the banks should be cautious not to allow an upsurge of inflationary expectations in financial markets.

That in turn may mean that there is less scope for monetary policy to be used to stabilise exchange rates. "Achieving and maintaining orderly exchange market conditions may have to depend more on progress in correcting the imbalances which appear to be the fundamental source of exchange market turmoil," the Outlook says.

While central banks should continue to co-operate in promoting orderly markets, "there is a limit to how far it is feasible or desirable for currencies to be held at any particular level by means of intervention and monetary policy changes alone."

Turning to prospects for the developing world and for heavily indebted countries, the OECD says that their economic situation, which was already weak, will deteriorate further under the impact of slower growth in

SUMMARY OF PROJECTIONS (Seasonally adjusted at annual rates)				
	1986	1987	1988	1989
Percentage changes at annual rates				
Real GNP	2.9	2.75	2.5	1.75
US	2.9	3.5	3.5	3
Japan	2.5	1.5	1.5	1.25
West Germany	2.7	2.25	1.75	1.5
OECD Europe	2.8	2.75	2.25	1.75
Total OECD				
Real total domestic demand	3.9	2	1	1
US	4	4.25	4	3.25
Japan	3.7	2.5	2.25	2
West Germany	4	3.25	2.5	2
OECD Europe	3.8	2.75	2	1.75
Total OECD				
Inflation (GNP/GDP deflator)	2.6	3	3.5	3.75
US	1.8	-0.25	1	1.5
Japan	3.1	2.5	1.75	1.75
West Germany	3.8	3.25	3.5	3.5
Total OECD				
Current Balance	-141.3	-156	-134	-105
US	85.8	86	81	79
Japan	37.1	44	41	32
West Germany	42.8	46	50	43
OECD Europe	-34	-7	-15	-4
Total OECD	-10.1	12	6	6
Unemployment				
US	7	6.25	6	6.5
Japan	2.8	3	3	3.25
West Germany	8	8	8.25	8.5
OECD Europe	10.9	10.75	11	11.25
Total OECD	8.3	8	8	8.25
% change from previous period	4.5	3.75	4.5	3.5

Assumptions underlying the projections include:

- no change in actual or announced policies
- unchanged exchange rates from 30.11.87; in particular \$1 = ¥ 133.6, DM 16.46
- dollar price OECD led imports for internationally traded goods of \$14 per barrel

the industrialised countries. The outlook for their export revenues has been adversely affected by the stock market crash and by correspondingly weaker commodity prices. "For most developing countries debt problems remain a matter

of major concern. The prospects for a return to financial viability still appear remote for most of the "problem" debtors," it says. Multilateral efforts undertaken so far to alleviate the debt crisis seem unlikely to make a significant dent.

Jobless face bleak future

BY OUR ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

THE unemployed in industrialised countries face a bleak future, with a slowing in the pace of economic growth offering the prospect of fewer jobs total in most countries.

In its Economic Outlook, the OECD says that the number of people out of work in its 34-member countries may rise from 30.25m now to 32m by 1989.

Increases are likely in Europe, Japan and the US. Youth unemployment, which has been falling gradually for the past few years, may begin to rise again in 1989.

The long-term jobless total is likely to continue to increase.

A projected rise in the US unemployment rate, from the present 6 per cent to 6.5 per cent in 1989, would reverse the downward trend seen since 1982.

In Japan, the proportion of people out of work may rise from 3 per cent to 3.25 per cent during the same period.

Those figures, however, represent rates less than the present and prospective jobless rates in western Europe.

The number unemployed in western European countries is expected to rise by 1.24m to 20.25m by late 1989, pushing the jobless rate up from 10.75 per cent to 11.25 per cent.

In the UK, the rate may fall to a low of 10 per cent in 1988 before rising again to 10.5 per cent two years hence, the OECD says.

EUROPEAN NEWS

Bonn rejects Eurofighter cost cuts offer

BY DAVID MARSH IN BONN AND DAVID BUCHAN IN LONDON

THE West German government has described as insufficient an offer by the multinational Eurofighter consortium to cut 3 per cent from its DM6.7bn (\$2.25bn) share of development cost for the military jet, which is being designed for the air forces of West Germany, the UK, Italy and Spain.

The offer would give West Germany, which has a third share in the collaboration, savings of more than DM200m. However, it was "not enough" to satisfy Bonn's concerns about the rising cost of the European Fighter Aircraft (Efa), the Bonn defence ministry said yesterday.

West German insistence at driving down Efa's development cost is beginning to cause concern among Bonn's three partner governments. They also stand to benefit from any cost reductions but are worried about further delay in starting full Efa development and about the possible disruption of the whole project, if Bonn were to opt for an alternative fighter.

The UK defence ministry took the first step in early November towards formal UK approval of Efa development, a process expected to be completed early in the new year. Italy and Spain are expected to follow suit soon after.

Mr Manfred Woerner, the German Defence Minister, warned last week that Bonn might pull out of Efa, if its cost did not come down. At his insistence, in early November, the four Efa partner governments asked Eurofighter - the Munich-based consortium made up of British Aerospace, MBB of Germany, Aeritalia and CASA of Spain - to take another look at costs.

Eurofighter, which is the industrial prime contractor for the Efa airframe and all the equipment it, then offered a 3 per cent cut in development costs. However, Eurofighter made most of the reduction dependent on Efa development being given the go-ahead by the end of this month, the Bonn ministry said yesterday.

Hungarian ducks chase French geese

By George Graham in Paris

THE CREAMY duck liver, *foie gras de canard*, that slides unctuously down the gourmet's throat, is finally living down its reputation as the poor cousin in the foie gras family.

The goose has traditionally reigned supreme in the market for foie gras, the essential starter for a French Christmas feast.

Peasant farmers in the Landes region of south-western France might rear a few ducks for their own consumption, but they concentrated on geese to sell in the market.

French consumers, however, have now turned towards the less fatty but more strongly flavoured duck livers, which are still cheaper than geese, even though at FF700 (\$40) to FF1,000 a kilo - more if they are flavoured with truffle. It is hard to think of them as the poor man's foie gras.

"This year there has been a real explosion in duck livers," says Miss Fabienne Labeyrie of Ets R. Labeyrie, France's leading foie gras producer.

"We have never before sold as much duck. It is real madness," she says. Behind the new-found popularity of duck livers is the generation of Nouvelle Cuisine chefs who served it up in salads or hot dishes, rather than reverentially on its own, as had been usual for goose foie gras.

But an element of French conservatism is also creeping in. For although France remains the dominant consumer and producer of foie gras, with about 60 per cent of the world market, in the goose department, at least, the country has had to turn in growing measure to imports from Hungary, with a 25 per cent world market share, and Israel with 10 per cent.

base in the party to push him to the top. More important, as seen from Moscow and from the perspective of the party president, he was a man too much in a hurry, as one Czech economist put it. Mr Strougal was intent on economic reforms regardless of the ideological consequences. His political future is now open to much speculation.

Mr Jakes, in contrast, gives little indication of introducing major political reforms. "He is a party man, someone who will not compromise the monopoly of the leading role of the party for economic reforms," an economist, who was "purged" by Mr Jakes back in the 1970s, commented. That must suit Mr Jakes, who wants the mini-

Ex-Nazi quits W German TV job

BY DAVID MARSH IN BONN

MR WOERNER HOEFER, the 74-year-old doyen of West German TV journalism, was yesterday forced to resign from his broadcasting job after a flare-up in the press over his Nazi past.

The affair underlines the way that the Third Reich still casts contorted shadows over West Germany. The often ambiguous role of Germans during the war, especially of those who went on to success in the federal republic, is still the focus of a mixture of steady povetial enough to detonate periodically in explosions that rock careers.

Mr Hoefer, with sparse silver hair and petulant manners, has fallen foul not only of genuine sensitivities about Nazi-era activities but also of current political intrigue in which the press, during the past 10 days, has played an important and somewhat unsavoury role.

Mr Hoefer, who has hosted for nearly 36 years a successful journalistic show on television at Sunday noon, yesterday said he was giving up the programme. "I followed a diplomatically worded call for his resignation from his employers, the Westdeutsche Rundfunk broadcasting organisation, on Monday evening."

Whatever the exact nature of Mr Hoefer's activities during the Nazi period, his downfall has been prompted by an unusual alliance of West Germany's two most successful and controversial newspapers - the left-leaning news magazine *Der Spiegel*, and the raucous right-wing daily, *Bild*.

The two publications, for different reasons, have been campaigning for his removal. This has partly mirrored Byzantine efforts within Westdeutsche Rundfunk to unseat him. Mr Hoefer's elegant longevity seems to have aroused impatience among other broadcasters there.

In a bitter farewell letter yesterday, Mr Hoefer disputed WDR's right to carry on the programme he invented. The station said it would go out under another name, in a different format, from next Sunday.

It has never been disputed that Mr Hoefer joined the Nazi party in 1933, immediately Hitler had gained power, and worked on Nazi papers during the war. After Germany's defeat, he passed unscathed through "dena-

zification" vetting by the Allies and started a successful broadcasting career. He also gained a reputation for liberal opinions which earned him support on the left during the first post-war decades when the federal republic was run by conservative governments.

After sporadic controversy during the 1960s and 1970s about Mr Hoefer's past - mostly stirred by right-wing publications - a long piece in *Der Spiegel* revived the debate, mainly in connection with an article under his name in a Nazi newspaper in 1943, which praised the Nazis' execution of Karl Robert Kreiten, a talented young pianist hanged for insulting Hitler and undermining the war effort.

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Shortages put Yugoslav freeze under threat

By Aleksander Lebi in Belgrade

THE GOVERNMENT'S general price freeze in Yugoslavia is threatened by shortages of an increasing number of goods, less than six weeks after its introduction.

One of the first cracks in the freeze is being caused by the shortage of milk, in spite of government efforts to intervene by importing both fresh and powdered milk, and ordering cheese production reduced.

Many manufacturers have warned that they will have to stop producing goods on which they lose money, or to produce inferior quality goods and sell them at the frozen prices. It is already clear that the Government will be compelled to allow prices of some goods and services to go up before next May, when the freeze is due to expire or be extended.

Foreign companies in joint ventures, particularly car assemblers such as Volkswagen and General Motors - have said they will reconsider their presence in Yugoslavia if their products are not exempted from the freeze. Both car companies claim that imported inputs cost more than the price the cars can fetch in Yugoslavia.

These include the collapse in 1982 of the Banco Ambrosiano with \$1.2bn in bad debts. Mr Gelli was a close associate of Mr Roberto Calvi, the head of Banco Ambrosiano, known as God's Bank because of its close connection with the Vatican.

Mr Calvi was found hanged under Blackfriars Bridge near the River Thames in London in June, 1984.

Mr Gelli, now a frail 68 and reportedly a lawyer, is to be severely ill, surrendered to a Swiss magistrate here in September after four years in hiding, reportedly in South America, following his escape.

His surrender was interpreted as an adroit move which could allow him to return to Italy without being charged for some of the more serious crimes attributed to him. Asked in court yesterday why he had not returned directly to Italy, Mr Gelli replied: "People are assassinated in Italian prisons."

The Geneva court yesterday revoked the suspension on the two-month sentence imposed on Mr Gelli for using false papers to enter Switzerland in 1983. He might thus be able to serve months in Switzerland before extradition, unless the time he has spent in custody since September is counted.

Shortly after his escape from the Swiss prison the Swiss federal tribunal (supreme court) authorised his extradition but only on two charges, that concerning Banco Ambrosiano and another involving fraud allegedly uncovered during the Italian authorities' investigation of the P2 masonic lodge.

In November this year the Swiss federal authorities rejected an Italian request for Mr Gelli's extradition on other charges. Under international practice a person should not be charged with offences other than those for which he has been extradited.

A court in Florence recently sentenced Mr Gelli in his absence to eight years' imprisonment for complicity in terrorist incidents in Tuscany between 1974 and 1983.

EC plans to harmonise levels of lorry road tax

BY WILLIAM DAWKINS IN BRUSSELS

BIG DISPARITIES in road taxes, charged to road haulage companies in different European Community countries, could be sharply eroded by 1990, according to proposals put forward by the European Commission yesterday.

They also include plans to charge individual hauliers for the upkeep of the international roads they use most frequently, possibly by issuing motorway licences. The package should bring big cuts in road taxes for lorries in West Germany and Britain, which are now more than twice as great as in any other member state. It is also expected to unblock West German opposition to a separate proposal for phasing out limits on the number of lorry journeys

allowed across internal EC frontiers.

Bonn feels its lorry owners would suffer in a free market because they pay higher road taxes than all but their British competitors. However, Mr Jürgen Warnke, West German Transport Minister, has said Bonn could agree to end lorry quotas once EC road taxes were harmonised.

The Commission is proposing that the basis for calculating road tax for lorries - rather than the taxes themselves - should be harmonised from the start of 1990. Taxes should be based on lorries' minimum laden weight, which is likely that road taxes would go down in the most heavily taxed countries and be increased where they are lowest - in such countries as Italy, Spain and Luxembourg.

base in the party to push him to the top. More important, as seen from Moscow and from the perspective of the party president, he was a man too much in a hurry, as one Czech economist put it. Mr Strougal was intent on economic reforms regardless of the ideological consequences. His political future is now open to much speculation.

Mr Jakes, in contrast, gives little indication of introducing major political reforms. "He is a party man, someone who will not compromise the monopoly of the leading role of the party for economic reforms," an economist, who was "purged" by Mr Jakes back in the 1970s, commented. That must suit Mr Jakes, who wants the mini-

base in the party to push him to the top. More important, as seen from Moscow and from the perspective of the party president, he was a man too much in a hurry, as one Czech economist put it. Mr Strougal was intent on economic reforms regardless of the ideological consequences. His political future is now open to much speculation.

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Tokyo expects rate of growth to accelerate

BY STEFAN WAGSTYL IN TOKYO

THE JAPANESE Government yesterday adopted an economic forecast for the 1988-89 financial year which predicts a further increase in the country's already rapid rate of economic growth.

The Government expects the economy to grow by 3.8 per cent in real terms in the financial year which will start in April 1988, following a predicted 3.7 per cent rise in the 12 months to the end of March 1988.

The forecast was adopted yesterday by Prime Minister Noboru Takeshita's cabinet, which is expected to consider today its draft 1988-89 budget.

The economic outlook, prepared by the Government's Economic Planning Agency, follows a host of private estimates published in the last few days and predicting increases in growth ranging from 3.2 per cent to 4.3 per cent.

The Government's own figures reflect the optimism with which Japanese economists, bankers and industrialists are viewing the domestic economy, despite the October crash in world financial markets. They also highlight the Government's confidence that it has fulfilled promises made to its economic partners this year to stimulate growth.

According to the official report, the Government is expecting a 4.7 per cent increase in domestic demand due to continuing strong consumer demand and a sharp jump in industrial investment. The increase in

investment in industrial plant and equipment is forecast to rise from 7.7 per cent in the current financial year to 9.3 per cent in 1988-89.

After almost standing still in 1986-87, industrial production is forecast to rise by 6.6 per cent in the current financial year and by 7.6 per cent in 1988-89.

The present surge in private house-building, stimulated by soaring land prices in Tokyo and elsewhere, is forecast to level off. Private residential investment is expected to rise by 1.8 per cent next year against a predicted 1.6 per cent in the current financial year.

Foreign demand for Japanese goods, hit by the strong yen, is forecast to fall by 1 per cent. Japan's current account surplus for the 1988 financial year is expected to fall by \$10bn from a predicted \$72bn for the current year.

Prices should remain stable according to the Economic Planning Agency's report, with an expected rise of 0.3 per cent in wholesale prices and 1.3 per cent in consumer prices.

The Government says it will promote steady expansion of the economy, led by domestic demand and based on stable prices. The programme of public works, which was expanded this year, is to be maintained by using funds raised in the recent sale of shares in Nippon Telegraph and Telephone.

Kim Young Sam agrees to talks on elections

BY MAGGIE FORD IN SEOUL

MR KIM YOUNG SAM, a defeated South Korean presidential candidate, yesterday changed his mind and decided to enter talks with the ruling party over National Assembly elections to be held early next year.

While continuing to insist (along with Mr Kim Dae Jung, the other opposition presidential candidate) that the election last week was rigged, Mr Kim Young Sam said that South Koreans should continue to try to fight for democracy through elections.

He asked the ruling party, led by Mr Roh Tae Woo, the president-elect, to defer the Assembly elections until after the presidential inauguration, due on February 25, and to redesign the present constituency system.

Urging Mr Roh to act speedily to pursue national reconciliation, he said the ministers of defence, home affairs, and culture and information should be dismissed over the unfair election, and a new Cabinet appointed.

A spokesman for Mr Kim Dae Jung's Party for Peace and Democracy said that talks on the National Assembly law could be held in the new year. The PPD is continuing its efforts to investigate alleged unfairness in the election, but is now itself being

investigated by the Seoul prosecutor's department as a result of allegations that it spread false rumours.

Interest in the claims of unfairness appears to be waning as South Koreans rush to complete Christmas shopping delayed by the election and finish work before the New Year holiday.

Meanwhile, the Government appears to be making progress in its efforts to secure eastern bloc participation in the Olympic Games to be held in Seoul next year. Hungary and East Germany have accepted an invitation to attend and Mr Park Se Jik, head of the Seoul games organising committee, said that the January 17 deadline for national acceptances could be extended to encourage North Korea to take part.

Mr Nobura Takeshita, the Japanese Prime Minister, sent a message to Mr Roh promising help in staging the games and in South Korea's efforts to establish diplomatic relations with China. Peking has unofficial economic ties with South Korea, but is an old ally of the North. Mr Roh is reported to want to visit China before his inauguration.

Dissident Chinese student jailed

By Robin Pauley, Asia Editor

THE CHINESE authorities have jailed another student for involvement in campus protests last year, indicating that the persecution of dissidents is being pursued in spite of official assurances that the protests were neither significant nor serious.

A court in Shanghai jailed Yang Wei, 32, a US-educated student, for two years for inciting campus protests and stated that a dissident Chinese magazine based in New York had "betrayed the motherland".

Yang Wei was accused of "conducting demagogic propaganda for counter-revolutionary and separatist activities".

His arrest in January triggered protests in the US and Congress passed a non-binding amendment saying that asylum could be given to any of the 22,000 Chinese students in the US who feared similar treatment on their return.

Peking given Soviet summit assurances

MR IGOR ROGACHEV, Soviet Deputy Foreign Minister, wound up two days of talks with Chinese officials by saying the results of the latest US-Soviet summit would help contribute to better Sino-Soviet relations, our Peking correspondent reports.

At a news conference in Peking, he was also optimistic about the possibility of a summit between Mr Mikhail Gorbachev, the Soviet leader, and Deng Xiaoping, China's elder statesman.

"We consider the results of the Washington summit will positively influence everything, including Sino-Soviet relations," Mr Rogachev said. "We think a meeting between Chinese and Soviet leaders will eventually take place."

To underline Moscow's interest in better relations with Peking, Mr Rogachev announced that a working group of Chinese and Soviet officials would begin detailed discussions next month in Moscow on the disputed Sino-Soviet border.

John Elliott reports on the success of the Indian and Pakistani tradition of arranged marriages

Weddings which put romance in the shade



Benazir Bhutto forsook freedom for tradition when she married Asif Zardari

"SLIM, tall, fair-skinned, attractive, convent-educated, 34-year-old Oxford and Harvard graduate, progressive outlook, seeks good-looking man of landed Sindi background, modern and willing to permit independent pursuit of public career. No dowry wanted."

This small ad has never appeared in the matrimonial columns of Karachi's Dawn newspaper, but its specification was no doubt in the mind of Miss Benazir Bhutto's aunt when she set out a year or so ago to arrange a marriage for a highly westernised niece, whose public life as the leader of Pakistan's main opposition political party made a preferred conventional romance impossible.

Last Saturday, Miss Bhutto married her aunt's choice, a 34-year-old building developer and landowner, forsaking her earlier open and free ways for a traditional arranged marriage. Like most other men and women in Pakistan and India, she was turning aside from an increasingly westernised and consumer-oriented society to accept a partner she scarcely knew.

Here was the latest of three glittering Moslem and Hindu weddings in the worlds of politics, former royalty and international business, which have taken place on the Indian sub-continent during the November-December marriage season.

Like most marriages in India, and in Pakistan where women's rights are specially limited, they were all arranged to a greater or

lesser degree by parents and older relatives. This was partly to satisfy religious and social conventions that make western-style dating and courting difficult, if not impossible. Such arrangements are also aimed at protecting the succession of property, status and the traditions of castes, tribes, religions and other communities,

ranging from India's Hindu former maharajas and members of the tiny proud Parsi religion, to Pakistan's Sindi feudal landlords and its Moslem Syed tribe who claim to be the direct descendants of the Prophet Mohammed. People living abroad, especially in the US, also find arranged marriages, often through newspaper adverts, the

only way to secure a partner.

The Bhutto-Zardari wedding bound together two feudal land-owning Moslem families of Pakistan's southern province of Sindh. A "royal" wedding 10 days ago linked Kashmir and Gwalior through the marriage of two Hindu members of the princely Kshatriya strand of the Indian land-owning Rajput caste.

An extravagant wedding was celebrated last week between two Hindu trading families, who emigrated to India from Sindh at the time of partition 40 years ago and now run international businesses in Europe, the Middle East, and the US. A wish for a Sindi marriage led to them back to their roots. The match links the Hinduja, originally from the Shikhar trading caste, and the Mukhi from Hyderabad near Karachi.

"We chose a bride from our area because, as Sindis, they have the same background, so there are no different cultures and traditions to create problems," said Mr Srichand P. Hinduja, father of Shanu, the 23-year-old bride. "But we are liberal - we gave them two months to decide after we had chosen them." Mr Janki Mukhi, the father of Suren, the 24-year-old groom, added laughing.

The couple in the Kashmir-Gwalior match met at a dinner arranged by the parents after the bride, from the Gwalior side, had rejected her parents' earlier suitors. They got on well, played

badminton, said they wanted to get married and were engaged for a year. "So it's not really an arranged marriage, nor even guided, but let's say encouraged," said Dr Karan Singh, heir to the defunct Kashmir princedom and father of the groom.

Such a marriage is little different to those in many western families, and a parallel is often drawn between the careful family vetting for, and restricted choice of, Prince Charles with Lady Diana Spencer. European royalty apart, however, the main difference is that the young on the Indian sub-continent assume that their parents will make a wise choice, or offer range of sensible options, whereas parents in the west are rarely given such credit or respect.

In India, a young woman's unmarried affairs make her a less marketable partner - not so much so for a young bachelor. In Pakistan, where women's scope is less, many rich, urban, Moslem women appear to see marriage as an opening to discreet affairs and sexual freedom denied to single people. "Marry someone rich and then enjoy yourself," one professional woman in her 30s was advised by a 65-year-old, distinguished, female relation.

In the feudal areas of Pakistan, such as Sindh, it is quite usual for a rich man to have more than one wife. Miss Bhutto's late father, the prime minister Mr Zulfikar Ali Bhutto, was married in an arranged feudal match with a woman about 10 years

older, when he was 13. She stayed in the interior of Sindh and he then chose Begum Bhutto, his generally recognised wife and Miss Benazir's mother. Later he had a third, long liaison.

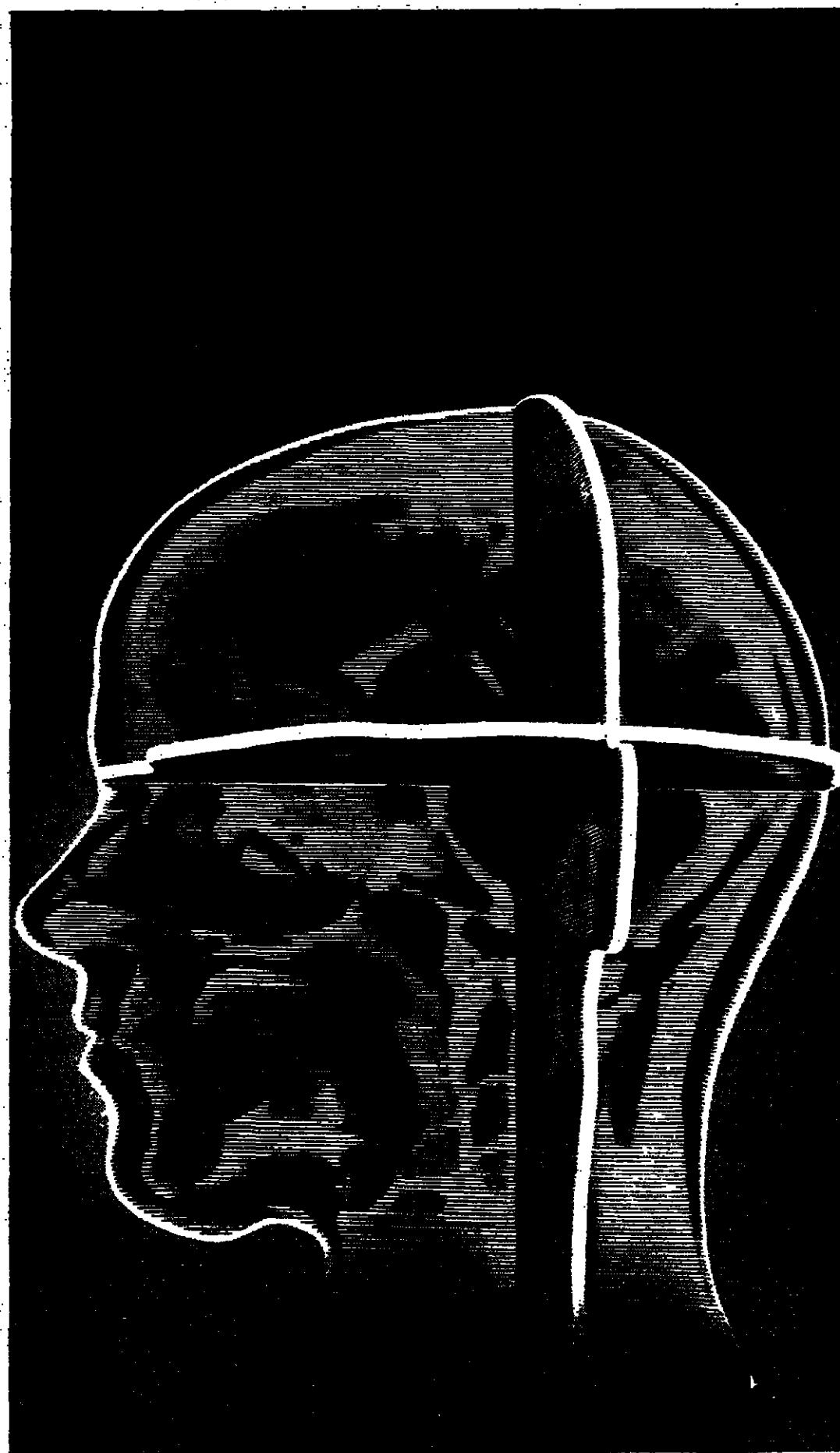
Although styles are changing, even the most modern women accept that an arranged marriage may well have more chance of success than a love match. "You put more effort into making an arranged marriage work because of the family pressures on you - and you don't get annoyed just because he snores," said an Indian international airline stewardess who hopes to make her own choice one day.

Thus the idea of an arranged marriage, which horrifies western sensibilities and causes problems for immigrants to the UK and elsewhere, has virtually total support on the sub-continent, if not total observance.

One young Pakistani engineer, who lives in the US, is to arrive in Lahore this week to inspect three women who have been vetted by his mother on four criteria. In this order: fairness of skin, shape and beauty of face, family pedigree, general demeanour. The wedding date has been set for early next month, the hall booked and the invitations gone to the printer with a blank left for the bride's name. The man intends to make his choice, marry, obtain her a US visa and take her back with him to the US - all within the next three weeks.

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AMERICAN NEWS

US budget-making evades tough political choices

THE last-minute resolution of the 1988 budget on the eve of the Congressional break for the Christmas holidays has again focused attention on US budget making. The process is both consuming inordinate amounts of legislative time and energy, yet still not addressing decisively the political choices that need to be made to tackle the nation's fiscal problems.

The budget accord was sent promptly to the White House. There are two bills for President Ronald Reagan to sign, one implementing the tax increases and one containing spending provisions. Together they are designed to reduce the budget deficit by some \$30bn in 1988 and a further \$46bn in 1989.

Mr Reagan's approval seemed assured. In the final tense hours of negotiation legislators on Capitol Hill dropped provisions that the President had threatened would lead to a veto of the budget legislation, including one which would have required broadcasting stations to give free air time to opponents of views expressed in earlier programmes.

The budget legislation does, however, contain numerous provisions which it is assumed the White House would have opposed if they had not been rolled up into the two spending and taxing packages. One is a massive so-called "continuing resolution" providing for \$600bn of overall spending to replace the 13 individual appropriations bills that have not been passed separately.

The other is a reconciliation

Stewart Fleming in Washington on the slow progress of key legislation

bill which makes the changes in law required to adjust the tax code and so called entitlement programmes such as the Federal medical insurance system, benefits under which are not varied by annual Congressional appropriations.

The tax legislation for example contains a provision which denies American corporations double taxation relief on profits earned and taxed in South Africa. The provision was inserted by critics of apartheid and designed as a further tightening of sanctions against South Africa. The Administration has consistently opposed imposing economic sanctions against Pretoria.

In spite of the spending cuts and the \$9bn of additional taxes which are scheduled for the 1988 fiscal year most private economists are still predicting that the Federal budget deficit will rise from the \$148bn recorded in 1987.

An extraordinary rise in tax revenues last year which will not be repeated in 1988 accounted for much of the decline in the 1987 budget deficit from the \$221bn recorded for 1986.

Without the \$30bn of deficit reductions for 1988 many private

economists have forecast that the deficit would have risen to between \$180-200bn. These projections are of course heavily influenced by the underlying economic assumptions and in recent years forecasts have been notoriously unreliable.

To those who argue that the budget process is to blame, however, comes the response that the failure of the process is partly a manifestation of the conflict over political priorities amongst legislators on Capitol Hill as well as between the Democrat-controlled Congress and the Republican President.

The fact that the additional \$76bn of budget deficit reductions for 1988 and 1989 has been approved at all is attributed in large part to the plunge in the stock market on October 19, which triggered a renewed effort by the White House and the Congressional leadership to tackle the deficit issue in order to try and reassure the financial markets.

That effort, however, is being judged at best a marginal success. No major changes in spending or taxing priorities have been made which will ensure that over the next several years the deficit will be eliminated.

On the other hand the fact that a compromise has been reached, and one which includes some increases in taxation in spite of Mr Reagan's fierce opposition to any rises in taxation, supporters of the budget package say, provides some grounds for hoping that the deficit may be tackled more vigorously by Mr Reagan's successor.

Moscow disarms in war of ideas

MR Charles Z. Wick, head of the US Information Agency, says Mr Mikhail Gorbachev and other Soviet officials told him they wanted to take the harsh edge off the propaganda war between the superpowers, AP reports from Washington.

"It looks like we are now abolishing a whole class of weapons in the war of ideas - disinformation," Mr Wick said on Monday.

During the past year, US officials have complained increasingly about Soviet disinformation, including reports that the US government developed AIDS, that it was a weapon which kills only non-whites and that it played a role in the assassination of Mrs Indira Gandhi, the Indian Prime Minister, and others.

Mr Gorbachev, during a meeting last September with Mr George Shultz, US Secretary of State, complained about American charges that the Kremlin was lying about the US.

Their heated exchange seems to have led to a high-level review of Kremlin propaganda and, on October 30, the Soviet newspaper *Izvestia* carried an article that quoted two senior Soviet scientists who were refuting earlier stories in the Soviet press that AIDS was a natural development, they said.

During the December summit in Washington, Mr Gorbachev and other Soviet officials said they wanted to cool the propaganda war, Mr Wick said.

Wick, a close friend of President Ronald Reagan, met on December 9 Mr Sergei Loev, head of the official Tass news agency, Mr Aleksandr Akhymov, head of Soviet radio and television, and Mr Valentin Felin, head of the semi-official Novosti news agency.

"We had a surprisingly agreeable meeting," Mr Wick went on. "They indicated there would be no more disinformation. Then they said they would be of an unfriendly tone in the Voice of America," the official US radio station, he said. "This is apparently a new policy, which we hope is for real."

Tim Coone reviews violent reaction to a backdrop of discontent Paraguay's bitter 'democracy'

"DEMOCRACY without communism" says a large sign nailed over the shack that makes do for an immigration and customs office at Paraguay's river port of Encarnación. Unlike other parts of entry to many Latin American countries, it does not say "welcome".

In case visitors arriving from the other riverbank in Argentina are left in any doubt as to the nature of this concept, the sign adds: "Alfredo Stroessner. Anti-communist action group."

President Stroessner's 33-year-old dictatorship is approaching maturity like an over-ripe fruit preparing to fall. In the eyes of many observers, the decadence and corruption of the regime have placed it in an irretrievable decline from which only an economic miracle, such as the discovery of oil (being searched for in the north of the country) might save it.

The ruling Colorado party, the political base and pillar of the regime, is now deeply divided. The latest and most damaging split occurred last August following a convention to elect the party's authorities.

When it became apparent that there was to be a serious challenge to the President's yes-men being appointed to head the various committees that control the party machine, the building was surrounded with police and soldiers and only those delegates who were known supporters of Stroessner's nominees were allowed to enter and vote.

It was a farce, says one of the barred delegates, Mr Juan Alderete. He is the leader of the youth wing of the party which supports the faction known as the traditionalists.

After the convention, key cabinet posts were taken over by the "militant" faction supporting General Stroessner, and the Colorado party candidates for next

February's elections to the Congress have all been drawn from the "militant" list.

The "traditionalists" have been expelled from the party. Mr Alderete claims nonetheless that they are in the majority and in the past have assured General Stroessner of a broad political base of support.

He is now faced with an unprecedented array of opposition forces. Businessmen, the church, trade unions, students and even peasant farmers have begun mobilising and organising themselves to put an end to the regime, adding to the growing confidence of the opposition parties to speak out and face the second week of detention are submitted to systematic torture to extract information."

It says women prisoners are also "subjected to sexual abuse and rape".

Elsewhere it notes "the excessive power over the other powers of state, most notably the judicial power. This has resulted in practice that the judicial power has been deprived of the independence necessary to comply with its function as the protector of citizens' rights."

Mr Corazon Medina, a peasant farmers' leader has staged three hunger strikes in the past year against his illegal arrest and conditions of imprisonment. He is at present at liberty "but I am expecting to be arrested again at any moment," he said.

The land question is an increasingly contentious one in Paraguay, as the land reform begun by President Stroessner 30 years ago has run out of steam, and become bogged down in corruption, further eroding the traditional base of support of the regime.

One of the latest political prisoners is Mrs Norma de Pintos, the 21-year-old wife of another farmers' leader who was leading the occupation of a piece of land by 500 families which have been farming it for the past 10 years.

The land reform agency IRR ruled earlier this year that they should be given titles to the property, but instead the Government forcibly removed the farmers in favour of a rival claim made by a French landowner Mr Jose Terribil. As if that were not enough, Mr Terribil is a fugitive and wanted by the French police. Mrs de Pintos was arrested in September and suffered an abortion in prison.

Human rights leaders say that the regime is becoming increasingly dangerous, and as it becomes more unstable and isolated will be more liable to use violence against the opposition and even against critics within the ruling party.

Recent declarations by Government leaders that "verbal aggression" leaves little doubt that the anti-communist stick will be used to beat down critical voices from wherever they come.

Mr Domingo Laino, another PLRA leader anticipating a steady disintegration of the Government, said: "If things continue as they are, the regime may not last more than a year." But if, say, oil is discovered in the Chaco this could give it a margin to survive indefinitely.

Other opposition leaders say it will require maybe two years for the opposition groups to unify a strategy and force the General to step aside from the seat of power. All seem agreed however that the "democracy without communism" that General Stroessner has built around him to assure his perpetuation in power is finally gathering pace to overthrow him.

Brazil tax package 'bearable'

BY ANN CHARTERS IN SAO PAULO

REACTION TO Brazil's much-awaited fiscal reform package announced on Monday ranged from optimism to businessmen in Sao Paulo stating that once again the onus of reducing the Government deficit fell on the private sector paying increased taxes, while government expenses were minimally cut.

Acting Finance Minister Mr Malton da Nobrega said that the package was intended to help contain the 1988 government deficit to 2 per cent of GDP, compared to a this year's expected deficit of 5 per cent.

The 2 per cent target was originally in place as a check on government spending this year, but some economists estimate the deficit might go as high as 7 per cent.

Mr Mauro Amato, president of FIESP, the Sao Paulo State Federation of Industry, said the tax package was "bearable" and that business was tired of "packages and mini-packages that yield no result."

Tax reforms include increased taxes for employees, especially those with two jobs, increased taxes on short-term financial

investment, reduced fiscal incentives for businesses including the elimination of tax breaks on profits from exports of manufactured goods and inflation correction on progressive tax tables.

Proposed new taxes on capital gains and state taxes were put into bills for commercial consideration.

With President Jose Sarney now on an extended holiday in his home state of Maranhao on the Amazon until January 4, there is little likelihood that a new Finance Minister will be named in the interim.

Nicaragua peace talks round called off

A SECOND round of Nicaraguan peace talks called off yesterday as the government claimed it had repulsed attacks by the US-backed Contra rebels on the north-east of the country, Reuters reports from San Domingo and Managua.

The Contras refused to meet two foreigners appointed to negotiate a cease-fire on behalf of the left-wing Sandinista government.

Cardinal Miguel Obando y

Bravo, the Roman Catholic Church's minister from Managua, said he hoped each side would reconsider. No further meetings were scheduled and the church delegation would return to Managua as planned, he added.

But President Daniel Ortega of Nicaragua, who has claimed that government troops were pursuing Contras as they fled for the Honduran border, having attacked mining towns in north-eastern Nicaragua.

Parizeau runs for Parti Quebecois leadership

MR JACQUES PARIZEAU, Quebec's Finance Minister from 1978 to 1984, has decided to run for leader of the opposition, pro-independence Parti Quebecois, Robert Gibbons reports from Montreal.

The top position became available a month ago when Mr Jean-Jacques Bertrand resigned suddenly, unable to hold hard-line PQ separatists and moderates together.

Mr Parizeau returned to teaching economics at the University

of Montreal having resigned from the PQ Government in 1984 in protest against the party's plans to drop independence from the top of its programme.

The PQ later lost the provincial election of December 1985 to the Quebec Liberals under the Premier Mr Robert Bourassa.

Former Canadian cabinet minister Mr Andre Bessette and his associate and blind trust co-executor, Mr Normand Ouellet, have been ordered to stand trial on charges of fraud.

WORLD TRADE NEWS

Italians, Moscow in engineering venture

By David Lane in Milan

THE FATA group, a subsidiary of FKI Babcock, has signed an agreement to establish a joint venture with Prommashexport, the Russian export organisation. The operation will be based on an Italian joint stock company with headquarters in Turin, where Fata also has its offices.

Fata's general manager, Mr Luigi Bagnasco, said the joint venture was the first of its kind undertaken by the Russian organisation. Details of the share capital of the new company have not yet been settled, though the Italians and the Russians will hold equal stakes.

Mr Bagnasco said the company will be fully operational by February. It will work in contracting and engineering in third countries, particularly the Indian sub-continent and African states with which Moscow has close ties.

The Soviet organisation will provide market contacts while the Italian company will supply technological know-how.

However, Fata and its Soviet partner will soon be establishing a similar company to operate within the Soviet Union.

Mr Bagnasco said that Fata has already considerable experience of working with Soviet concerns.

He noted that collaboration will now be closer, extending beyond the supply of equipment and into support in operations and management.

The Italian company works in two areas, engineering contracting and plant automation. Mr Bagnasco said the main sectors in which Fata operates are agri-industry (refrigeration and packaging), mechanical engineering and metal foundries.

Fata employs 500 and will achieve sales of nearly 1,400bn in the current year. About three quarters of its sales are in export markets.

David Barchard reports on the first fruits of a novel approach to attracting capital investment Turkish Premier's pet project transfers into reality

JUST OVER three years after it was first publicly mooted, the "build-own-transfer" franchise model devised by Mr Turgut Ozal, Turkey's Prime Minister, is well on the way to becoming a reality.

Last weekend, the Turkish Government signed the second of 10 contracts involved in setting up a 4 x 350MW, coal-fired power plant at Gazi on the Mediterranean coast, which will be operated on a franchise basis. It also announced that five international consortiums were bidding for a similar build-own-transfer contract to construct and run a metro system in Ankara, the capital.

This marks a significant evolution in activities. A year ago, some of the bidders were bidding privately that they did not believe BOT could be applied to transport projects.

Meanwhile in Turkey there is a spate of local "BOT" schemes without foreign involvement, mostly of small hydroelectric projects, but including such novelties as a post office tower and revolving restaurant which is rising rapidly above the Ankara skyline.

Why the Government prefers franchise arrangements for local projects with no foreign partner

is not clear. BOT has generally been modelled on a sort of halfway house that will attract foreign investment into joint ventures with a limited lifespan for infrastructural projects. These local projects will revert to government ownership so the advance of the private sector is not to be permanent.

The idea is simple, though the technicalities, especially those covering provisions against risk, have become complex. One or more foreign investors form a consortium with a Turkish government agency and operate a venture, such as a power plant, for an agreed period - 15 years in most cases, though 25 years in that of the Gazi power plant.

The project is financed by a limited amount of equity, export credit loans and a commercial loan, with the financing worked by the foreign partner. There is no sovereign guarantee and the investment does not appear as a government balance-of-payments liability. As far as the Turkish Government is concerned, the foreign partner is liable to normal commercial risk. However, price and market guarantees are given, as well as a Treasury promise to step in if the Turkish side fails to make payments on time.

The attraction of the model for Turkey is that, although it is more expensive than conventional project finance, it gives the country additional access to funds for infrastructural projects. It also enables it to tap foreign management and technical skills.

"If the Turkish Electrical Authority (TEK) was capable of doing its job properly," one for-

There is a spate of local build-own-transfer schemes, mostly small hydroelectric projects, but including a post office tower

sign businessman working on the power plant projects says, "there would have been no need for foreign companies and BOT."

The same idea is expressed in private with even greater bluntness by some Turkish officials, who see the BOT as a means of Mr Ozal's much-vaunted claim that Turkey is leaping into a new era.

The model should give Turkey, a country which imports about two-thirds of its energy, access to additional energy capacity in the

late 1990s. The Gazi project itself is for a 1,400MW plant to be built and operated by a consortium of Seapac of Australia, Westinghouse of the US and Chiyoda of Japan.

An implementation agreement was signed on December 11, following a week later by a construction one. Further contracts for construction, energy sales, a partnership, coal supply, the ter-

minal, operation and maintenance, and share transfer will be signed in the next few months.

Seapac, a company little known outside the Australian state of Queensland, says that the project should be fully operational 64 months from last September.

It will be followed by two others: one a 2 x 490MW, coal-fired station at Tekirdag, near Istanbul, to be built by a consortium headed by Bechtel of the US, and

the other a 1,000MW power plant which the Electrical Power Development Corporation of Japan will build at Aliaga, on the Aegean coast north of Izmir.

Each of these projects will use coal imported by sea at a cost of about \$35 (\$19) per ton and produce electricity at a cost of less than 4 US cents per kilowatt to the Turkish purchaser, though the cost to the end-user - in line with existing electricity costs in Turkey - is likely to be far higher, at about \$ to 10 cents.

Strong interest has been shown in the projects by bodies such as the International Finance Corporation, which is likely to put up some of the equity for the first one or two power plants.

The expectation is that the BOT model will be used for similar infrastructural projects in the Third World. A more advanced version of it is already being discussed for a project in Pakistan.

However, the Turkish Government has found it harder to attract foreign investors through the device for non-energy projects, particularly in transport. It has been unable to attract bidders to cover only a portion of the total investment cost, with the balance being assumed by the Government. UTDC of Can-

ada, one of the bidders, has offered to undertake 67 per cent of the total cost but most of the other foreign bidders have been much more cautious, offering to put up between 20 and 30 per cent of the total.

It is not yet clear that the Turkish Government will manage to apply the model to what seem to be obvious candidates, toll motorways.

Foreign backers for a BOT scheme could not be found for the Edirne-Ankara motorway project last year. Now the Government is trying again with other motorways, including the 90km Izmir-Salihli, the 80km Izmir-Urfa-Cesme, the 52km Tarsus-Pozanti and a possible 120km Gaziantep to Halab.

With Turkey's debt-servicing ratio already more than 40 per cent, there is a limit to the additional Turkish exposure that banks are willing to undertake, no matter what financial model is involved.

Even so, if things go smoothly for Seapac at Gazi, there is little doubt that many more investors will step forward. The Government hopes this will have strong positive and negative effects on foreign investment in Turkey in general.

Swiss sign power plant deal with China

By Our Peking Correspondent

THE Bank of China and a syndicate of Swiss banks, led by Credit Suisse, have signed two loan agreements totalling SwFr155m (\$65m).

The loans will be used to finance the Swiss portion of a power plant complex to be built in China. Two Swiss companies, BBC Brown Boveri and Sulzer Brothers, are involved. Both have been awarded contracts by the Chinese authorities to supply power equipment for two 300MW coal-fired plants.

This is the first large loan for a specific project in China to be provided by Swiss banks. It is also the first one denominated in Swiss francs, rather than dollars, for a large project and represents a large expansion of the Swiss presence in China.

"We didn't want to come in with just a \$1m loan," said Mr Joerg Huebner, vice-president of Credit Suisse's export finance division. "We wanted to do a big loan and flex our muscles."

Mr Huebner went on to disclose the interest rate and repayment periods, although part of the loans would be repaid at a fixed rate, he said, adding that the structure of the loans provides the Bank of China with choices as to the date of maturity and the rate of interest to be paid.

The Credit Suisse syndicate also includes Union Bank of Switzerland, Swiss Bank Corporation and Swiss Volksbank.

The remainder of the \$384m project will be financed through loans already announced. The main banks involved are believed to include US Eximbank, Cofas, First Chicago and Japanese banks.

The power plants are expected to be completed in 1992.

Taiwan vehicle imports likely to hit record

TAIWAN'S vehicle imports and its domestic production are expected to hit record highs this year, due to a tariff cut and the rising local currency. Reuters reports from Taipei.

Imports, including light trucks and cars, totalled 38,815 units in the first 10 months of the year against about 20,000 a year earlier.

Dubai-London fare war ends

BY ANGELA DIXON IN DUBAI

A FARES war on the London-Dubai air route has been halted by an agreement to which all the major carriers on the route have agreed.

Diplomacy by Dubai's Civil Aviation Authority (DCA) seems to have been at least partly instrumental in bringing about a truce between the carriers involved. Mr Mohammed bin Hindi, Director of the DCA, says that the negative aspects of a fares war were pointed out to the airlines, and they agreed to co-operate.

Several international airlines met the authorities at the end of

October, requesting them to provide a framework within which the airlines could operate their fares system. All the major airlines have agreed to the fare of Dh 3,069 (\$590), which will stand for the next period.

They include British Airways, British Caledonian, KLM, Lufthansa, Singapore Airlines, Swissair, as well as Dubai's national carrier, Emirates, which began daily flights to London in July.

Different interpretations of previous fare agreements had resulted in various special offers on the London route. By November, some of the European car-

riers were claiming that it was becoming uneconomic for them to ply the route.

Although the established carriers seem to have seen Emirates as new competition on a route already heavily served, the airline states that the company has increased traffic by creating a new market.

In October and November, traffic rose up by 36 per cent compared to the equivalent period of 1986. The recent agreement is expected to bring stability into a market beset by fare disputes since the early 1980s.

Pakistan to build 3 harbours

BY MOHAMED APTAS IN KARACHI

PAKISTAN will build three modern fishery harbours in order to increase marine food production and exports. The three ports, for two of which international tenders are to be called, while tenders for one have already been

granted, will cost Rupees 1.8bn (\$100m).

The ports will be on the Arabian Sea coast at Pasni, Gwadar and Karachi. The present fish harbour at Karachi will also be expanded at a cost of Rs250m.

All the three ports will have the most modern processing and preservation facilities.

The fishing industry is being looked at by the government as a source of foreign exchange.

Japan may cut tariffs on 107 items

JAPAN'S Ministry of Finance said yesterday that an advisory council had proposed tariff cuts of up to 100 per cent on 107 imported items, including chocolates and skins, and a rise in import quotas on items subject to preferential tariffs, Reuters reports from Tokyo.

The council proposed a cut in tariffs on chocolate confectionery to 10 per cent from 20 per cent, the ministry said.

The proposals are expected to be implemented in the fiscal year starting next April, after passing Parliament early in 1988, officials said.

European countries have urged Tokyo to make the cuts.

The council also proposed tariff cuts of up to 100 per cent on 72 items, including skins, cork products, wool, gold jewellery and electric razors, imported from Spain and Portugal. Both countries became European Community (EC) members in 1986 and their tariffs on Japanese products have since been cut to EC levels.

Rabin returns to Israel with US defence deals

BY JUDITH MALTZ IN JERUSALEM

MR YITZHAK RABIN, Israel's Defence Minister, has returned from a week-long visit to the US, with important agreements that will benefit the country's ailing military industry.

On his first stop in Washington, Mr Rabin signed an 10-year memorandum of understanding with Naio countries in bidding for US military tenders.

Israeli defence companies have long complained of discrimination in US markets through a lack of adequate status.

Probably more substantial was the agreement by the US to finance 90 per cent - instead of only half, as it had insisted of the \$160m (\$58m) in development costs for the Arrow Project, a short-range anti-ballistic missile system. Israel had hoped the US would foot 90 per cent of the bill but an aide to Mr Rabin yesterday described the final breakdown as a "good compromise".

A formal contract on the project is to be signed by the US Strategic Defence Initiative

Office and Israel Aircraft Industries (IAI) next month. An IAI official said yesterday that, once the development phase was completed, the company would be interested in forming a joint venture with a US defence enterprise to produce and market the missiles.

Another agreement reached last week providing for the joint development and production of night targeting systems for Cobra attack helicopters, will also involve IAI, the main contractor in the Lavi fighter-bomber project.

The US Defence Department says it will finance two thirds of the total cost of this project, which will involve supplying 40 targeting systems to the Israeli air force and 80 to the US Marines.

In a third defence-related deal, the US Congress agreed during Mr Rabin's visit to allocate an initial \$8m for work on Popeye air-to-ground missiles by Rafael, an Israeli weapons manufacturer.

Methane danger prompts review of landfill sites

BY RALPH ATKINS

AN URGENT review of potentially dangerous methane gas emissions from landfill waste disposal sites was started by the Government yesterday.

Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Pollution is sending letters to all local planning and waste authorities warning of a "significant risk of accidental explosion" if sites are not properly managed.

The letter calls for a review of existing site licences and for details of landfill areas close to housing or industry.

It also asks for information about completed sites which have been used for construction or for which planning permission has been given.

The review follows a series of explosions this year caused by gas leaking from landfill sites. These have damaged property, caused injuries and resulted in at least one death.

The Inspectorate is also anxious to deter developers from building on former landfill sites until the danger of explosions has subsided, which can be 10 to 20 years after sites are closed.

In England and Wales about 18m tons of domestic waste a year is deposited on about 4,000 landfill sites.

Theoretically, this could produce up to 3m tons of methane

gas. In addition, England and Wales produced about 50m tons of industrial waste, most of which goes to landfill.

Gas is predominantly a problem on sites developed since the early 1970s. Before then, the putrescible matter in waste, which produces methane, was mainly deposited on gardens or burned in domestic fires.

In its letter to authorities, the Inspectorate estimates that more than 60 per cent of active landfill sites and 76 per cent of those closed in the last 10 years are generating gas in sufficient quantities to require professional surveillance and proper management.

Many site licences issued by local authorities do not require operators to control landfill gas, says the Inspectorate. There is also concern about the lack of information on former sites.

Cleanaway, one of the largest landfill site operators in the UK, yesterday said the action taken by the Inspectorate would help restore public confidence in landfill for waste disposal.

The company said it has a policy of monitoring emissions from closed sites until there is no longer evidence that methane is being produced.

Fiona Thompson takes the wraps off the yuletide ritual of corporate giving and receiving

Drinking in the spirit of Christmas present

THE BELLS of Christmas can be heard clinking out discreetly at this time of year. And the bag, the Johnnie Walker and the Famous Grouse. It is the traditional season for giving - and for keeping pretty quiet about receiving, in business circles at least.

Companies will cheerfully recount their list of Christmas presents sent to favoured business contacts - anything from pens and golf balls to hampers full of choice food and drink - but then become remarkably reticent when asked what flows in "just the odd calender" is the most common response.

There is clearly a delicate balance to be struck to satisfy both propriety - no one likes to feel they can be bought - and, as far as the givers are concerned, the Inland Revenue.

Gift-giving on the international scale can be a still more delicate matter. There are unexpected hazards confronting companies which with the best will in the world, send presents to their business contacts overseas where different standards - in every sense - may apply.

A British shipbroking company will not be sending a gift of ripe Stilton to Japan this Christmas. They did so for ages before someone pointed out that the Japanese detest strong-smelling cheeses. It is about as welcome as fragrant, fermented bean paste would be to the average turkey-eating UK company director.

The Japanese, who follow a strictly hierarchical pattern of corporate giving, try to ensure that their twice-yearly

exchanges of gifts will present the receivers with no enduring sense of obligation. They tend to choose items with a short life: foodstuffs or soaps.

UK business people, on the other hand, are obliged to give presents to one another which promise a little bit more permanence if they are to attract tax relief. By law, companies may spend a maximum of £10 per person on a business gift and claim tax relief. But the gift must not consist of food, drink or tobacco.

This does not seem to deter many from making gifts of consumable, and more especially drinkable, items which do not attract the Revenue's goodwill.

Buyers with long experience in the business will confirm that the halcyon, or, depending on your point of view, hellish days of being offered free double glazing, a car service, a paint job for the house or a fortnight in Majorca, have long gone. The shifting moral climate has made people wary of accepting gifts which might imply an obligation. But while diaries and calendars may indeed be the most popular gifts these days, alcohol and food follow closely behind.

Research commissioned by William Grant, the whisky distillers, found that 65 per cent of all business gifts between companies come in glass bottles, over two-thirds of them containing whisky. Wine accounts for most of the rest of the traffic.

As for food, Harrods sells 40,000 hampers at Christmas, ranging in price from £25 to £1,375. "The Supreme" version



arrives in something resembling a laundry basket but turns out to have crystal glasses and silver-plated dishes nestled among the pates de fois gras, caviar, and fine wines. According to Ms Zeida McCreary, who manages the food hall's gift box section, about 20,000 of the hampers are ordered by companies - "big, reputable firms, in manufacturing, advertising, banking, the City, public relations and insurance."

So just who receives the Glenfiddich and sides of smoked salmon? Statistics on company-to-company giving are notoriously difficult to come by, but a recent survey conducted by the magazine Chief Executive, among senior UK managers receiving gifts, supports the assumption that the prime givers

are those who supply, and wish to continue to do so.

More than 50 per cent of the 145 managers responding to the questionnaire said it was their suppliers of materials or services that sent them presents.

Mr Paul Stokes, purchasing manager at Jaguar, said: "We have just had the normal traffic over our desks - diaries and calendars from sales managers."

The days of expensive gifts filling buying offices have been on the wane "for some considerable time."

Mr David Boole, the company's director of public affairs, said they had policies on employees accepting Christmas presents. In 55 per cent of cases only taken gifts, such as diaries, could be received, a fifth of companies set an upper limit on the value of

that an employee must declare anything other than articles of a nominal value to his or her immediate superior who decides whether or not acceptance would compromise them. In practice, "no one would grumble about a bottle of wine or whisky - provided it's not a special malt," said Mr Boole.

Jaguar is somewhat less restrained, however, about its own giving - dealers regularly entertain their best customers to a day's clay pigeon shooting, racing at Silverstone or classical music evenings in stately homes.

John Laing, one of Britain's largest construction companies, provided a comprehensive list of Christmas gifts it sends out - 6,500 company diaries, business card holders, address books, calculators, travel alarm clocks, golf balls, fountain pens, letter openers and pen knives - to its prime business contacts, but declined to comment on the inward flow.

At Marks and Spencer, the conditions of employment state that traditional acceptance of Christmas presents should be treated sensibly, but money in any form and hotel, holiday or other facilities should not be accepted. So buyers are not prohibited from accepting gifts? "I think we can depend on the integrity of our management people," replied corporate press officer, Ms Judith McKenzie.

In the Chief Executive survey, just over half the companies said they had policies on employees accepting Christmas presents. In 55 per cent of cases only taken gifts, such as diaries, could be received, a fifth of companies set an upper limit on the value of

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gifts that could be accepted, and 18 per cent said managers had to approve before an employee could accept a gift. Only 4 per cent imposed a total ban on accepting all gifts.

As for bosses themselves, about two-thirds said they had personal rules of not accepting gifts in certain circumstances; for instance if they were about to decide on the allocation of a contract or if they felt it would place their company in a position of obligation.

This attitude is one which the Institute of Purchasing and Supply would heartily applaud. As the association for buyers in the public and private sector and in government, the institute has taken a stand against what it calls inducements, according to Mr Peter Rowe, head of external affairs.

When buyers encounter blatant examples of excessive giving, the institute writes to the company concerned, pointing out "in the nicest possible way" that the members' moral code prohibits them from accepting gifts other than those of small intrinsic value.

The ethical problems of Christmas giving and receiving reach even to the summit of the western world. President Reagan, who once gave his wife Nancy a muck-spreader for Christmas, is this year spending \$800 (\$438) on a two-foot carved ivory statue of the Madonna. It has already been given to her once, by the Pope, but under US law, the Reagans are only able to keep gifts valued at less than \$180, so he is buying it back. A small price to pay for a First Lady.

Labour challenge over NHS review

BY TOM LYNCH

MR ROBIN COOK, the shadow Social Services Secretary, has challenged the Government to publish the findings of its promised far-reaching review of National Health Service finance and the "major evidence" given to the review.

In a letter to Mr John Moore, the Social Services Secretary, published yesterday, Mr Cook also asked why it was to come of the review and who would be invited to give evidence to it.

He told Mr Moore: "Any change to the NHS is unlikely to be successful or sustained if it is not supported by a degree of public and professional consensus. Any report that emerges from a review conducted behind closed doors is unlikely to command that public support."

Mr Cook told journalists at Westminster yesterday that he was deeply suspicious of the Government's intentions after the reviews of social security which led to a major overhaul under Mr Norman Fowler.

He said: "The Fowler reviews were conducted in secrecy by committees packed with government placemen and did not publish a shred of the evidence they received."

"John Moore's replies to my questions should help us know what the Government is up to. If they are going to try to get away with a secret review meeting in private, it will be obvious that ministers have fixed its membership and methods to give them the answers they want."

Downing Street yesterday released the text of a letter from Mrs Margaret Thatcher, the Prime Minister, to Mr Nicholas Winter, the Conservative MP for Macclesfield, who last week presented her with a petition from consultants and junior doctors on the financial condition of the NHS.

Mrs Thatcher repeated her arguments that spending on the NHS had increased both in real terms and as a proportion of an increasing gross domestic product.

She said that the NHS itself generated additional demand for its services by asking people to live longer, by being innovative in its treatments and by increasing its capacity to treat people and no government could ever provide a blank cheque to meet such a rising demand.

Office systems 'would help' financial services

BY ALAN CAINE

COMPANIES in the UK financial services sector believe electronic office systems would benefit their businesses but find it difficult to explain why.

Research carried out by Arthur Young, the management consultants, on behalf of ICL, the UK-based computer manufacturer, concludes:

"Office systems are perceived to be a 'good thing' by organisations interviewed but, in many cases those interviewed were unclear as to how they could contribute to the achievement of business objectives, if at all."

In the financial services sector, the survey found, management attention was focused chiefly on the changes in the business environment around them - increased competition, deregulation and global marketing - and the need to be able to respond quickly and flexibly to them.

They accepted their existing data processing or management information systems were not able fully to support these requirements and that office systems - information technology tuned to the needs of individual workers or work groups - could help.

The research discovered, however, that most organisations had

not incorporated information technology in their office systems strategies.

Where systems had been implemented, they frequently failed to meet either business objectives or user requirements.

The Arthur Young research is further evidence that UK business and industry is moving timidly towards the use of information technology and failing to incorporate it into business strategy.

Last month, a study carried out in the north-west by Price Waterhouse, the management consultants, showed that many manufacturing companies they intended to increase their investment in manufacturing automation without reliable indicators as to whether their investment had been successful or not.

A series of studies earlier in the year mirroring research carried out in the US and elsewhere showed a significant level of dissatisfaction with the exploitation of information technology in business.

The main problem seems to be that business analysts have yet to develop a technique for measuring the value of investment in information technology.

Beecham plans £3m expansion

By Peter Marsh

BEECHAM, the UK drugs company, is to spend £3m on increasing production of a recently introduced anti-arthritis medication at its Ayrshire factory.

The investment will more than double the capacity of the Irvine-based plant to make Reliflex, which is available on prescription in Britain, West Germany and Ireland.

Beecham has applied for licences to sell the drug in several other countries including the US, Italy and New Zealand. Analysts expect the annual world market to reach £100m by the early 1990s.

The company says the expansion, due to be complete by the end of next year, will probably generate about 20 jobs. It has already invested about £100m at the site, which opened in 1973 and employs 800.

CAA calls for London airports expansion

BY MICHAEL DUNNE, AEROSPACE CORRESPONDENT

THE NEED for the Government to consider longer-term provision of more runway capacity at London airports is stressed by the Civil Aviation Authority.

In a letter to Mr Paul Channon, Transport Secretary, Mr Christopher Tugendhat, CAA chairman, has sent the letter along with the report of the special committee set up last year at the request of Mr Channon, then Trade and Industry Secretary, to study the possibility of increasing the use of runways at Heathrow and Gatwick within existing environmental restrictions.

The decision on when to publish the actual report rests with the Secretary of State, but Mr Tugendhat thought his letter should be published at this stage

because it dealt with longer-term matters the committee thought important to publicise.

Mr Tugendhat said the committee was given strict terms of reference and its report would "produce small but nonetheless valuable increases in hourly movements, especially during peak periods at both Heathrow and Gatwick."

Wherever possible, the committee's recommendations have already been implemented within the CAA's own powers, but there are some that need the Secretary of State's approval.

Mr Tugendhat specifically draws attention to the committee's view, however, that even the increases in aircraft movements resulting from the committee's work "will not enable

Heathrow and Gatwick to accommodate the currently forecast future growth in demand in the south-east."

With traffic rising strongly, the demand for more aircraft movements at both Heathrow and Gatwick next summer is already at record levels, some 11 per cent higher than last summer at Heathrow and 16 per cent higher at Gatwick.

"While Standed will be in a position to meet part of future growth when the new terminal facilities become available there in 1991, further measures will clearly be necessary," said Mr Tugendhat.

"The committee believes it is imperative that the Government should give urgent consideration to the provision of additional air-

port capacity to serve the London area."

The CAA had begun a £200m programme to modernise and expand air traffic control facilities over the next five years.

"While these improvements should allow airspace capacity to keep pace with demand, they will not enable present airport runways in the south-east to handle markedly greater numbers of aircraft movements than they can at present."

"Only through the provision of more runway capacity in the London area will UK civil aviation be able to grow in response to demand and the London airports system remain a major hub within the international network."

International Appointments

THE DESTINY OF EUROPE IS WRITTEN IN THE STARS

PRESS AND INFORMATION OFFICER

With EUTELSAT a new era has dawned for Europe. The establishment of a truly European telecommunications satellite system is a glowing achievement for the 25 governments who have pooled their resources in space, joining together to create their own future, high up in the skies of Europe.

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NOTICE TO HOLDERS OF SHARE WARRANTS TO BEARER

An interim dividend of 4.25p per share will be payable on or after 7 January 1988 to persons presenting coupon no. 46 detached from share warrants to bearer. Coupons, which must be left four clear days for examination, may be lodged any weekday (Saturdays excepted) between 10 a.m. and 5 p.m. at the offices of the Company, Department of Hill Samuel & Co. Limited, 45 Beeth Street, London, EC2P 2LX, or at Credit Lyonnais, 19 boulevard des Capucines, 75002 Paris, or L'Eurobanque de Banque, 21 rue La Fayette, 75438 Paris. Listing forms may be obtained on application.

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22 December 1987

NOTICE OF MODIFICATION OF WARRANTS

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U.S. \$70,000,000 2 1/2 per cent. Guaranteed Notes due 1992 unconditionally and irrevocably guaranteed by

THE SANWA BANK LIMITED (Incorporated with limited liability under the laws of Japan)

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN in accordance with the instrument by way of which the present modification of the warrants of the Company (the "Warrants") in connection with its issue of bearer warrants ("Warrants") to subscribe up to ten (\$10,000,000) shares of common stock of the Company that the Company will execute a Supplemental Instrument by way of amendment to the Warrants, dated 22 December 1987, modifying the terms and conditions of the Warrants. From 22 December 1987 the Dividend Annual Period defined in Condition 4 of the terms and conditions of the Warrants shall be the six month and ten day period from 21st September, 1987 to 31st March, 1988 and thereafter each six month period ending on 30th September or 31st March in each year.

This modification is made consequent to a resolution of the general meeting of the shareholders dated 18th December, 1987 of the Company, and in accordance with the provisions of the instrument by which the Company was incorporated to change the financial year end of the Company.

Shares issued upon exercise of any Warrant during the period from 21st September, 1987 to 31st March, 1988 shall entitle the holders thereof to participate in full in any dividend on the shares with respect to the entire six months and ten day Dividend Annual Period from 21st September, 1987 to 31st March, 1988 in accordance with Condition 4 of the terms and conditions of the Warrants.

The Company and the Principal Paying Agent have made a determination in accordance with the instrument by which the modification is not materially prejudicial to the interests of the holders of the Warrants.

UN-CHARM CORPORATION
By: The Sanwa Bank, Limited
as Principal Paying Agent
DATED: 22nd December, 1987

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NHS report advises hire of 7,000 youth trainees

BY JIMMY BURNS, LABOUR STAFF

THE DEPARTMENT of Health and Social Security yesterday published a report on the National Health Service, Europe's single biggest employer which, if implemented, could lead to a significant expansion of the Government's Youth Training Scheme.

The report, prepared by management consultants Price Waterhouse, recommends the creation of up to 7,000 YTS placements in the NHS annually as part of the establishment of an innovative national framework for training within the health service.

There are currently only 30 YTS schemes organised locally within the NHS and they involve only 700 trainees. This compares

with a total of 460,000 registered apprenticeships in other sectors under the two year training programme.

According to the report, YTS would be able to provide high quality training for support workers, and would be less costly than alternative training programmes.

However, it notes that it would be "unlikely" to make a large contribution to nurse recruitment which is dependent on more specialised training.

It estimates that the programme, which is subject to consultation with health authorities and staff in the coming months, would not produce more than 2,000 entrants to nurse training a year.

Mr Tony Newton, Minister for Health said that the Government would be "considering carefully" the proposals which he welcomed.

The Royal College of Nursing said it welcomed a national framework for improved training but predicted that the proposal would provide only a "trickle" of new nurses.

Nupe, the health workers union said it would oppose any attempts to use YTS trainees to replace jobs or reduce wages.

YTS has become the accepted focus for youth training in industry and it is widely accepted by most trade unions and politicians that it is set to become a permanent feature of Britain's training infrastructure.

CAA staff vote to cut Civil Service pay tie

By Jimmy Burns, Labour staff

MEMBERS of the Institution of Professional Civil Servants employed by the Civil Aviation Authority have voted overwhelmingly to break the link with Civil Service pay in a move that paves the way for a radical pay and conditions package.

The vote, by 1,847 to 265, should mean immediate pay increases, backdated to April 1, ranging from 11 per cent to 41 per cent for the seven main groups of CAA employees.

The CAA welcomed the ballot result. However, it said that in the case of 950 air traffic controllers the full implementation of the package was linked to the outcome of continuing negotiations at local level on new working practices.

The negotiations, expected to conclude early in the New Year, mainly involve the introduction of flexible rostering to ensure that more staff are available during peak air traffic hours.

In exchange for breaking with the Civil Service pay link, the IPCS has received assurances from the CAA that the authority will remain underpinned by the Civil Service salary increases awarded to all IPCS members in 1988.

The union believes that in practice its members within the CAA will in the future receive increases over and above those they would have earned had they remained linked to the Civil Service.

NFC denied this, but Mr Bryan Wilson, its corporate personnel director, said following NFC's move to employee ownership, the mood within the consortium was to test present operational arrangements, even if they had existed for some years.

NFC subsidiaries Pickford Travel and British Road Services have both derecognised the TSSA within the past 12 months, and subsequently NFC told the union it was concerned about senior staff representation at its headquarters, and proposed the direct election by employees of non-union representatives.

The TSSA says the company

Transport staff foil move to scrap union

BY PHILIP BASSETT, LABOUR EDITOR

LEADERS of the white-collar TSSA transport union (Transport Salaried Staffs' Association) have succeeded in fighting off an attempt at derecognition within the National Freight Consortium, the UK's largest freight transport, storage and distribution company.

The moves within the NFC and its companies are further instances of small but growing efforts by employers to do-unionise, principally by putting the issue of union representation directly to employees.

Although union negotiation within the NFC and its companies has been greatly decentralised since it was privatised five years ago, leaders of the TSSA accused NFC yesterday of a co-ordinated drive towards union derecognition.

NFC denied this, but Mr Bryan Wilson, its corporate personnel director, said following NFC's move to employee ownership, the mood within the consortium was to test present operational arrangements, even if they had existed for some years.

NFC subsidiaries Pickford Travel and British Road Services have both derecognised the TSSA within the past 12 months, and subsequently NFC told the union it was concerned about senior staff representation at its headquarters, and proposed the direct election by employees of non-union representatives.

The TSSA says the company

wanted to survey its employees on the proposal using the MORI polling organisation or the Electoral Reform Society, but it was agreed that a ballot should be carried out by the conciliation service, Acas.

But the union won a significant victory when the consortium agreed it would be reasonable, under the terms of the ballot, to count any employees not voting as being in favour of the unionised arrangements.

Less than half the employees concerned voted at all, and of those who did, 42.5 per cent voted in favour of no change in the representation arrangements, and 40 per cent for a mix of union and non-union representation.

Taking the no-change votes with the non-voters, NFC counted this at 71.95 per cent. Since this was less than the 75 per cent level which the consortium had set as the target to be reached if there was to be no change in representation, NFC has suggested that its headquarters staff should have a mix of union and non-union representation.

Mr Wilson said that the Acas vote had assuaged the corporation's doubts about representation, but Mr Norman Hitchen, TSSA assistant general secretary, said: "Their attempt at derecognition has backfired. They won't admit they have got eggs on their faces - but they have."

Top level Cabinet reshuffle rumoured

By Peter Riddell, Political Editor

THE POSSIBILITY of a larger-than-expected Cabinet reshuffle after Christmas is now being floated around the ministerial telephone network, following the mild stroke suffered by Lord Whitelaw, the Leader of the House of Lords, 10 days ago.

While Lord Whitelaw appears to have recovered fully with no lasting ill-effects, the expectation among senior ministers is that, partly in response to family pressure, he is likely to stand down as Leader of the Lords, while possibly remaining in the Cabinet for the time being.

The main talking point among ministers in the past week has been the succession. According to the latest, and alleged authoritative, word from ministers close to Mrs Margaret Thatcher, the Prime Minister, the option of a major reconstruction has been floated.

Under one view this would involve shifting Sir Geoffrey Howe, the Foreign Secretary, over to the Lords as the new Leader. Mr Nigel Lawson, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, would become Foreign Secretary, while Mr John Major, the Agriculture Minister and a former Chief Secretary to the Treasury, would move up to become Chancellor.

The problem with this option is that Sir Geoffrey has been telling friends over the past week that he wishes to remain Foreign Secretary and does not, at present, want to go to the Lords.

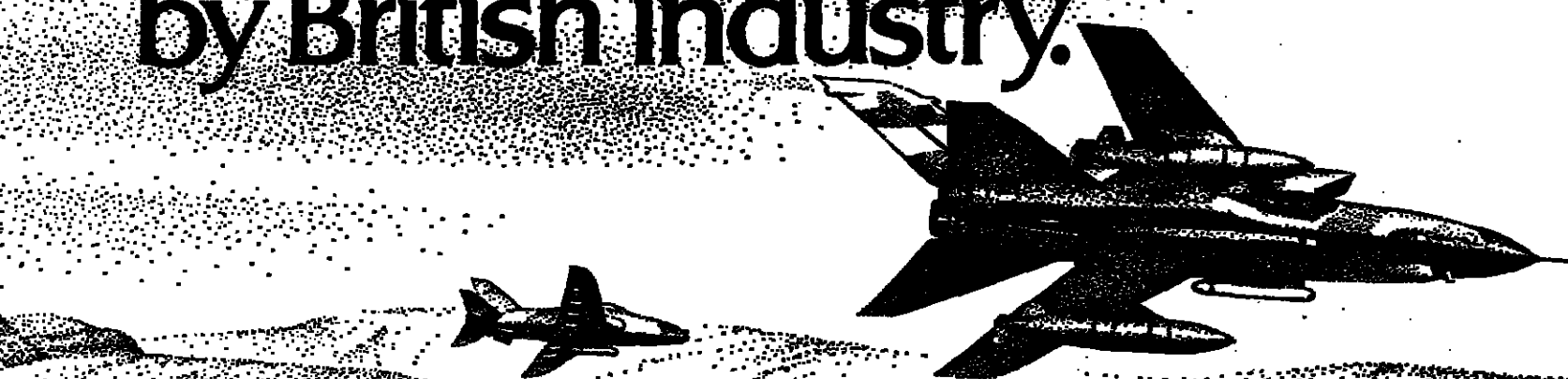
Similarly, Mr Lawson has no apparent wish to become Foreign Secretary. He wants to introduce another spring Budget, completing his tax reforms, before considering his future in politics during the summer. This includes the option of retirement to the backbenches.

The alternative view, held by the parliamentary business managers, is that any changes should be limited. Hence a short-term successor to Lord Whitelaw could be one of the recently ennobled ex-Cabinet ministers, such as Lord Crickhowell, previously Mr Nicholas Edwards, the Welsh Secretary from 1979 to 1987. Another less likely option is Lord Coleridge, formerly Sir Humphrey Atkins.

A possible candidate mentioned within the existing Cabinet is Mr Paul Channon, the Transport Secretary, a regular figure who would be popular in the Lords and who is also unlikely to rise much further in the Commons.

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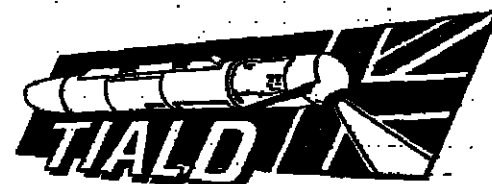
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UK NEWS

Glaxo signs US deal on sales of ulcer drug

BY PETER MARSH

GLAXO, Britain's biggest drugs company, has signed an agreement that could open the way to over the counter sales of a version of its highly successful Zantac anti-ulcer product.

The drug, based on ranitidine, the main chemical in Zantac, is due to be sold initially in the US for treating mild stomach disorders such as indigestion and heartburn, a market worth about \$700m a year in the US.

Under the agreement, announced yesterday, the product would be sold in the US by Sandoz, a leading Swiss pharmaceuticals company which is anxious to build up its over-the-counter business.

Glaxo said yesterday it had no plans to make available a non-prescription version of Zantac anywhere other than the US. However, if this happened it would be via licensing agreements similar to the deal with Sandoz.

In contrast to Sandoz, Glaxo is interested only in selling products that are available on prescription. Zantac, which has been on sale for six years, has become the world's biggest selling prescription drug, accounting for just under half of Glaxo's sales last year of \$1.73bn.

The over-the-counter version is expected to be on sale in the US within two years, assuming the US Food and Drug Administration

approves it. It could generate annual sales of \$100m within a few years, according to Mr Peter Woods, a pharmaceuticals analyst at Barclays de Zoete Wedd, the stockbrokers.

As part of the agreement, the two companies will promote jointly US sales of a drug under development by Sandoz for treating high blood pressure and other heart-related problems.

The product, which is called Dynacirc and is expected to be on sale next year, is one of a class of drugs called calcium antagonists. It will compete with several other formulations made by companies such as Bayer, Pfizer and Marion Laboratories in a market estimated to be worth about \$1bn a year.

Zantac is among a category of formulations called H₂ antagonists that combat ulcers by selectively blocking the secretion of acids in the stomach. The other big selling H₂ antagonist is Tagamet, made by SmithKline Beckman.

It is thought that SmithKline Beckman may have similar plans for Tagamet, possibly by launching a non-prescription version in the US about the same time as the new form of Zantac.

Inquiry on Brent's anti-racist programme

Financial Times Reporter

MR DOUGLAS HURD, the Home Secretary, yesterday announced an independent inquiry into the racial equality programme in schools run by the London Borough of Brent.

Sir David Lane, former chairman of the Commission for Racial Equality, will seek comments from parents and governors on whether the Labour-controlled council should receive a £2m government grant towards the salaries of teachers charged with combating racism.

Brent's anti-racist policies hit the headlines last year when the borough took disciplinary action against Ms Maureen McGoldrick, a primary school head, over an alleged racist remark, which she denied making. The Government intervened to force the borough to drop the case.

The row over that case extended to the council's plans to appoint extra staff to ensure that teachers, lessons and pupils were not racist. The project attracted a government grant on the understanding that the new teachers would help under-achievers from Commonwealth countries.

Mr Hurd blocked the grant last year amid allegations that the new staff were "race spies". Teachers alleged that their new colleagues were inexperienced. However, government education inspectors sent to Brent in the summer defended the anti-racist policy, while criticising the management of the schools.

The borough accepted the inspectors' criticisms and agreed to improve its image and management. A new chief education officer was appointed and the aim was to place equal emphasis on standards and equality.

The Home Office said yesterday that Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Schools would inspect Brent's policy in parallel with the Lane inquiry, which will focus on the management arrangements for the council's Development Programme for Racial Equality (DPRE) and its local impact.

Mr Nicola Parashotou, the council's education chairman, said Brent had invited the investigation. He added: "We hope that Sir David Lane will be given a free hand to form his own judgements of the DPRE initiative based on its educational merits."

Clarke to tour US inner cities

Financial Times Reporter

MR KENNETH CLARKE, who was last week appointed Minister responsible for the co-ordination and presentation of inner-city policy, is to tour inner-city areas in the US.

His five-day visit to look at how the US is regenerating inner cities starts on January 4. It will take in Atlanta, Pittsburgh, Los Angeles and San Francisco. Mr Clarke also remains Industry Minister, will also meet industrialists during his stay.

Michael Donne finds there is no peace for executives now the BCal fight is over

Time for BA to count the cost of victory

WITH THE takeover battle for British Caledonian Airways now over, British Airways faces a period of intense activity in working its new prize into its own web.

The first task will be to restore the confidence of BCal's staff - which, whatever the BCal Board may say, has been severely eroded by the events of recent weeks.

Also, BA will have to determine quickly how much cash - apart from the \$250m it is paying for the BCal shares - needs to be pumped in to keep BCal flying for it is no secret that the independent airline has been losing money.

BA is now expected to reactivate its "task force" of executives, which was set up when the merger was first mooted, but stood down when the proposal was referred to the Monopolies Commission.

The task force's duty will be to examine all BCal operations from equipment procurement to staff numbers, to decide how best not only to weld the two airlines together but also to see what needs to be shed.

A has made clear that up to 2,000 personnel will need to be cut from the combined staff as routes, equipment, ticket offices and other activities are rationalised. BA says this will be done as far as possible by natural wastage and voluntary retirement, with enforced redundancies kept to a minimum.

Among early changes will be the BA takeover of many of the

BCal short-haul international routes in Western Europe, and the long-haul routes to Tokyo, Hong Kong, New York and Los Angeles, flying out of Gatwick.

Under the terms of the Monopolies Commission's approval for the takeover, BA will be obliged to return to the Civil Aviation Authority within one month all BCal's licences to operate domestic UK routes, including those to the Channel Islands, European routes already operated by BCal (Paris, Brussels and Nice), and European routes for which it holds licences but does not yet fly - Athens, Copenhagen, Hamburg, Oslo, Rome, Stockholm and Stuttgart.

The CAA will put these routes up for bidding by other airlines, with public hearings into applications for them. Some such bids have already been received - from Loganair for Gatwick to Glasgow and Edinburgh, from Dan-Air for Gatwick-Manchester and Manchester-Aberdeen, and from British Island Airways for Gatwick to Manchester, Glasgow, Edinburgh and Jersey.

Air Europe is seeking to expand its short-haul European network (it recently started flights to Munich). BIA has applied for Gatwick-Nice, while Virgin Atlantic is seeking some of the long-haul routes (including New York, Tokyo, Hong Kong, Muscat and Los Angeles).

The Monopolies Commission terms allow BA to re-bid for any of the BCal route licences it is surrendering, although its applications will be treated on merit.



Mr Larry Tindale, of Investors in Industry (left), receives a cheque for £100m from Mr Edward Dawney, of Lazard Brothers, in consideration of the 41 per cent holding in BCal that it has sold to BA.

in the hearings, the CAA may come under pressure not to reward the routes to BA, to do so would be to reduce the volume of competition between UK airlines on international routes.

Maintenance of this competitive remains one of the basic objectives of the Government's air transport policy, a policy which many in the industry believe to have been damaged by the takeover.

To repair that policy, therefore, it seems likely that the CAA will seek to ensure that, as far as possible, the surrendered licences will go to UK operators other than BA, but it will have to be sure that whoever gets them is financially secure enough to fly them properly.

BA's application, made during the heat of the takeover battle, to seek the revocation of all BCal licences, will be withdrawn since it no longer has any point.

BA will also withdraw the outstanding appeals by BCal against the granting by the CAA of route licences to Air Europe for flights from Gatwick to Amsterdam, Brussels, Copenhagen, Frankfurt, Geneva, Munich, Paris and Zurich, thereby ensuring that Air Europe in effect becomes the new "second force" short-haul European international airline.

Similarly, the surrender of up to 5,000 "slots" - take-off and landing allocations - at Gatwick spread throughout the year, will result in a scramble for them by other airlines, especially those seeking to take over the current

dered BCal route licences. Working out which slots to be released will probably be the duty of the BA task force, but their re-allocation will probably be handled by the Gatwick scheduling committee, which represents all airlines using the airport. It is expected that because those slots have been held by BCal, they will be re-allocated to UK airlines and not to foreign operators.

Aircraft equipment is a major area of concern. BA will inherit the BCal order for 10 Airbus A-320 advanced-technology airliners, the first of which is due to be delivered next spring, for use on European routes to replace BCal's ageing One-Elevens.

The A-320 is not an aircraft that BA has ever wanted, preferring the smaller Boeing 737s and the larger 747s. An examination of the A-320s on the European routes will take place to see how many, if any, of the A-320s BA will keep.

Bcal's plans to buy up to nine McDonnell Douglas MD-11s will be easier to handle, for BA has been studying the MD-11 (alongside the long-range four-engine A-340 version of the European Airbus) as a possible replacement for its own ageing long-range Lockheed TriStars.

The only problem would be over engines. BA has expressed a preference for Rolls-Royce RB-211s, whereas BCal had opted for US General Electric engines. BA would be likely to re-open the bidding.

Airship contract wins reprieve

BY MICHAEL DONNE, AEROSPACE CORRESPONDENT

AIRSHIP INDUSTRIES, the UK manufacturer of lighter-than-aircraft, can continue to develop its large airship for the US Navy.

Recent fears that the programme, worth about \$170m (£93.1m) to Airship Industries and its US associate, can continue for the time being to develop the prototype large airship, Sentinel 6000, which is included as an experimental fleet surveillance craft.

The aim is to develop an airship able to hover for many

hours over the fleet at sea and to use a sophisticated avionics package to provide early warning of the enemy.

The US Navy believes that airships, being more stable and able to fly longer, are more suitable and cheaper than fixed-wing aircraft or helicopters.

If the current five-year development contract is successful, the US Navy will consider a further contract for a number of production airships, possibly as many as 50, which could be worth up to \$22m.

different countries is expected to take several more months to collect. However, there are no plans to adopt a different method for analysing risk, the association says, so that firms will find it simple to adjust the figures in their own computerised risk-control systems.

Since the first set of rules on capital backing were published in July, the association has been given additional data on the volatility of different world stock markets and the degree to which they move independently from one another. This has allowed the new rules to take account of the benefits of diversification when a firm holds shares in several countries.

A second refinement is in the calculation of the risks of holding bond portfolios. The revised rules give greater credit for the lower risks of holding matched

Air Europe signs leasing deal for 10 Boeing jets

BY MICHAEL DONNE

AIR EUROPE, the independent airline owned by the International Leisure Group, has signed a leasing deal for five Boeing 737 twin-engine jet airliners and five Boeing 737 tri-jets, worth about \$355m (£194m).

Mr Harry Goodman, chairman of ILG and Air Europe, announcing the deal yesterday, said: "The new aircraft will be used on our new scheduled routes to Paris, Munich, Brussels, Amsterdam, Frankfurt, Zurich, Geneva and Copenhagen."

The deal is between Mercantile Credit and Air Europe and calls for the delivery of the five 737s in 1988, and the five 737s in 1989.

A second stage of the agreement, to be completed in March, covers delivery of Rolls-Royce RB-211-535E4 engines for the Boeing 737s and Franco-US (General Electric) CFM56-3C engines for the Boeing 737s.

Ex-Plessey man joins BT team

By Terry Dodsworth

MR DAVID DEY, former managing director of BT's UK communications equipment business, is joining British Telecom to strengthen the management team responsible for running the UK telephone network.

Mr Dey, 48, resigned from Plessey earlier this month, only a few weeks after the group's telecommunications activities were merged into a joint venture with the General Electric Company.

He will become deputy managing director of BT's UK communications divisions at a difficult point in the group's development. BT has suffered a barrage of criticism this year over quality standards, and has committed itself to attaining a number of improvements next year.

In addition, the company is in the middle of one of the most ambitious investment programmes in digital exchanges launched by any national telephone company.

Most of this equipment is made by the newly-formed GEC-Plessey joint venture, so Mr Dey has an intimate knowledge of the problems in keeping the project on course. There have been some worries at BT about pricing and stability of supply following the merger of its two main suppliers.

Before joining Plessey, Mr Dey spent 25 years in the computer industry with International Business Machines, holding a number of senior management positions in the UK, US and Europe.

At Plessey, where he was on the board, he was seen as one of the leading members of a group of younger managers who had been brought in to expand the business and develop its activities overseas.

Although he became chairman of the operating company for the joint venture, day-to-day management control passed to Mr Richard Reynolds of GEC, and Mr Dey is understood to have felt that he did not have an appropriate role to play.

Capital-backing rule changes will increase competitive edge

BY CLIVE WOLMAN

A SERIES of refinements were published yesterday to the capital-backing requirements of the Securities Association, which will give a greater competitive edge to the multi-national investment banks and securities firms.

However, the association, the largest self-regulating organisation in the new City structure, has so far made no revisions to its estimates of the risk of holding shares as a result of the greater stock market volatility since the crash of October 19.

The Association and the Securities and Investments Board, the regulatory overseer, are both carrying out separate reviews which may lead to higher figures being used for the historic price volatility of the securities firms to have more capital backing.

The data on share price volatility over the last nine weeks in

long and short positions, in accordance with the rules applied by the Bank of England. A dispute with the Bank over the drafting of these rules has been settled.

The third set of refinements apply to the rules for assessing the risk of having unsettled bargains with other firms which may become insolvent. The new rules impose a graduated scale of additional capital requirements according to the length of time bargains remain unsettled. After 90 days, 100 per cent of the value of an unsettled equity bargain is considered at risk. For bonds, the limit is 60 days.

For the first time, the association has also issued capital-backing rules for firms dealing in the wholesale money markets and taking positions in currency and interest rate swaps and other instruments.

Leukaemia clusters found near Sellafield

FINANCIAL TIMES REPORTER

INCIDENTS OF leukaemia among adults living in coastal areas near the Sellafield nuclear reprocessing plant are three times the national average, university researchers say.

The academics from Lancaster University are seeking more cash to investigate whether radioactivity from Sellafield and other nuclear plants in the vicinity is to blame for the higher incidence of the illness.

Their 160-page report, due out in January, follows 12 months of research by Dr John Whitelegg, a medical geographer, Jonathan Burch, a researcher, and David Gost, a consultant haematologist from the Royal Lancaster Infirmary.

Dr Whitelegg said today: "The answer after 12 months' hard graft is there is a persistent raised incidence of leukaemia going on, particularly in the coastal areas of Lancashire."

"We are talking about a factor of three. We should be getting about three cases a year per 100,000 people, but are getting nine or 10 cases a year, particularly in the Lancaster and Blackpool health districts."

Other leukaemia blackspots include Morecambe, Fleetwood and Lytham St Anne's, said Dr Whitelegg.

His team checked back through medical records of Lancashire, Greater Manchester and Merseyside health authorities between 1982 and 1986 to discover 600 cases of leukaemia which they found occurred mainly near the coast.

The researchers will now look at the areas near Sellafield, the Copenhurst fuel enrichment plant, Springfield, and Heysham power station near Lancaster, to test whether radioactive pollution has played a part.

Celltech in £42m share sale

By Martin Dickson

CELLTECH, Britain's leading independent bio-technology company, said yesterday that it had raised £42m from an international private placing of shares.

When the unquoted group announced plans for the offer early this month, it hoped to raise up to \$45m, and a minimum of \$40m. The money will be used to fund its development from a research-based company into a manufacturer of its own pharmaceutical products.

It has raised \$24m from existing investors, with British & Commonwealth Holdings contributing more than \$15m to maintain its near 33 per cent stake. Prudential Assurance is also maintaining its stake of almost 14 per cent.

The placing has brought in new investors from the UK, Europe and Japan. About \$500,000 was raised in Europe, mainly from Swiss investors, while some \$3m came from Japan. October's market fall meant hopes of raising money in the US were abandoned.

FT to launch free magazine

By Raymond Snoddy

THE FINANCIAL TIMES is to launch its first free, controlled circulation magazine. The International is a monthly aimed at Britons living or working abroad.

The magazine, to be launched in March, will be designed to keep individual UK expatriates informed about everything that affects their money, including offshore investment and tax.

The initial circulation will be 30,000, but Financial Times Magazine estimates that there are about 2m British expatriates.

The editor of the magazine will be Mr Peter Gartland, currently personal finance editor of The Times and a former editor of Money Management.

Alliance has 'some way to go'

BY TOM LYNCH

MR ROBERT MACLENNAN, the SDP leader, told his party yesterday that its proposed merger with the Liberals still had "some way to go".

His statement came in a letter to members of the Council for Social Democracy, which must approve the negotiated package by a two-thirds majority at its conference in Sheffield next month before the terms can go to a ballot of all party members.

Mr MacleNNAN described the 12 weeks of talks as "difficult though necessary," but reminded CSD members that talks were still in progress on the joint policy declaration, the final element of the merger package to be put before conferences of both parties next month. "There is still some way to go yet," he said.

Steel, the Liberal leader, yesterday for further talks on the policy declaration. Aides of Mr Steel said substantial progress had been made and predicted it would be completed before MPs returned from the Christmas recess on January 11.

In a Christmas message in Liberal News, Mr Steel attacked "chauvinism" in both parties for standing in the way of a merged party being created in the New Year.

He urged party members to leave behind the "anxiety and introspection" of the period since the general election. "First, we shall have to defeat the small groups of chauvinists who unhappily exist in both parties, who care more about their own party games than the broader purpose."

"British voters are rightly fed up with narrow sectarianism, whether it comes from the right or left or even in the case of the new splinter group in the SDP, from the centre right."

Dr David Owen, the former SDP leader, said in a BBC radio interview that he had the backing of 12,000 people for his move to continue with a separate party. "It will be stronger and more effective for having that degree of commitment within it."

The SDP yesterday published its agenda for the Sheffield CSD meeting on January 30 and 31. Mr MacleNNAN is due to speak at 11.15 on the second day, and the vital vote on the package will be taken about 12.30. Mrs Shirley Williams, the party president, will give the closing speech.



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MANAGEMENT

Office architecture

Building a better corporate image

BY CHRISTOPHER LORENZ

IN ALL the future over Prince Charles's latest assault on the quality of modern office architecture in Britain, one key issue has been all but ignored: the power of good buildings to enhance corporate image.

The main butt of the Prince's controversial speech in London earlier this month were architects, developers and planners. But what about the companies which actually use the "mediocre" office blocks which he detests so much - assuming, of course, that they share at least a measure of his loathing?

Isn't it high time that they played a less supine role, and started to demand buildings that are not only good to work in (a need which is being recognised) but also impressive to look at?

It is in their strong interest to do so - for over 4,000 years far-sighted barons around the world, both corporate and political, have recognised that a good-looking building can do wonders for their public image, and the morale of their employees (or subjects).

As any international traveller knows, even if he or she has somehow escaped all the publicity about the Prince's long crusade against what he calls the "rape" of historic city centres, London is unusually bereft of impressive-looking modern office buildings - whether they are edifices which blend elegantly into their environment, as he prefers, or ones which stand out a mile.

Most conformist buildings, such as the now condemned monstrosities along the City's windswept London Wall, look downright dreary. They conform with the cheerless concrete jungle around them. Nonconformist adventures, on the other hand, are seldom excellent enough to compensate for their jarring arrival among what are often fine historic buildings.

Lloyd's of London's new steel-clad headquarters, controversial winner of this year's FT's Architecture at Work award, is a prime example of this, whatever its chairman might say about the shortcomings of some of the older office

blocks in the neighbourhood.

In many of the world's other financial and business centres, the proportion of fine modern office buildings is very much higher. New York is the most obvious example, with the splendid skyscrapers erected in recent years for the likes of IBM, AT&T and Citicorp.

But Paris also has its fair share, as do Frankfurt and other West German cities now that companies in the Federal Republic have started to turn their backs on the grey, faceless blocks erected in the 1960s and 1970s.

London's comparative bleakness results from a combination of factors, some technical and others largely aesthetic. Others largely aesthetic. In West Germany and other continental European countries, many companies build on their own account, wielding great influence over the design of their buildings. But the British office market in inner cities has long been heavily influenced by developers and planners working closely together to try and control the supply of space. If a company wants a new city office, it has always tended to go to a developer, often because it had no other choice.

The result, says Francis Duffy, co-founder and partner of DEGW, a leading firm of architects and space planners, is that "clients have generally been grateful to get what offices they could - any old stuff would do".

In the United States developers have played just as big a role, but since planning controls over the supply of space are looser, more of it has generally been available, and the market has been tenant-dominated. "In order to attract tenants, landlords have had to offer buildings with strong identities," says Duffy.

Things are now changing in Britain, partly thanks to the arrival of strong-minded, visually literate American corporations which know how to get the sort of office buildings they want.

This breed has its roots in the Chicago and New York of the late 19th century. But it only really burst forth after

1900, when a spate of American magnates commissioned a whole new landscape of striking skyscrapers right across Manhattan.

Not for nothing were these towers dubbed "cathedrals of commerce": they not only had cathedral-like dimensions, but also glorified the organisations they represented.

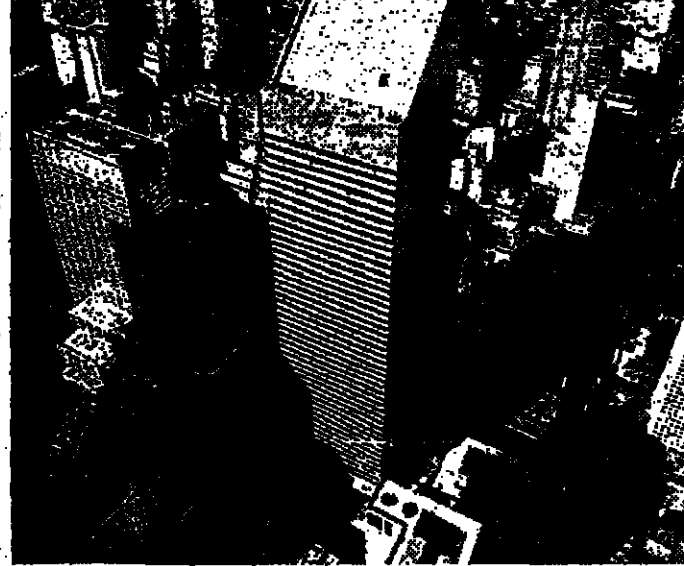
In the ensuing decades such multinationals as Olivetti, IBM, and John Deere became renowned for lavishing great care and attention on the visual impact of their office (and factory) buildings. Deere's award-winning headquarters in rural Illinois, opened in 1964, is a classic example of the way architecture really can express a company's character.

The spectacular steel and glass building, set among landscaped lakes and gardens, was intended to reflect Deere's graduation from insular Midwestern bumpkin into internationally-respected, yet down-to-earth multinational. With its opulent interior spaces and rugged exterior it succeeded brilliantly, presenting just the right balance of corporate characteristics to employees, dealers, customers and the general public.

Very much older examples of best practice are available for today's would-be constructor of corporate glorification. In a paper last month on "Cathedrals, palaces and skyscrapers: corporate messages", Thomas Walton of the Catholic University of America traced the long history of the idea that office architecture is one of the most effective and enduring ways for a corporation to assert its presence and prestige.

Addressing a conference in Boston on "corporate strategy made visible", organised by the US Design Management Institute, Walton tracked the practice right back to ancient times. The Egyptian pyramids, he asserted, were just as much a sign of the pharaohs' "corporate vitality" as they were tombs.

By the same token the Gothic cathedrals of the Middle Ages were not just symbols of religious zeal, recalled Walton. The beauty or otherwise of



Standing out in Manhattan's skyline, Citicorp's impressive HQ

these structures depended heavily on a region's economic wealth: thus the cathedral at Lyons, in central France, is, as he put it, "an undistinguished edifice whose eclectic facade and interior mirror the community's uneven financial health".

By contrast, the great beauty of its counterpart at Amiens owed much to the constant flow of resources which local merchants devoted to the building effort, said Walton.

As Walton argued, "corporations and architects have forged strategic relationships for centuries". Yet in countries such as Britain such partnerships are still the exception rather than the rule.

There would be many more - and they would be more successful - if top managers not only became more visually literate, but also more capable of briefing architects (and, where applicable, developers) to provide them with buildings which really suit their needs - including the projection of the appropriate visual image.

Peter Lawrence, chairman of the US Corporate Design Foundation and also a consultant, cites Corning Glass Works, like IBM, as a model practitioner of

the art: both companies state their building objectives with crystal clarity, and in great detail, taking full account of the local environment; they involve top management in the intensive briefing and monitoring of architects; and they co-ordinate their various building programmes with all other aspects of their design and corporate identity - including communications.

Among British companies, the process of discovering the importance of all this will be hastened by the sort of development controversies to which the City of London is becoming accustomed. For this one must thank both the Lloyd's row and recent planning disputes as the recent saga over an insensitive application to build a long-dead architect's undistinguished modern block on the "Mappin and Webb" site near the Bank of England. Most appropriately, Prince Charles chose to deliver his latest outburst right across the road, in the splendid and historic Mansion House.

*Paper available from DMI, 777 Boylston Street, Boston MA 02116, USA. Tel 617-236-4165.

Customs administration

A potentially SAD case

Richard Waters reports that companies' ignorance of new import and export documentation could cause chaos at the ports

MANY COMPANIES are leaving it perilously late to re-organise their exporting arrangements in order to avoid getting snarled up at shipping ports and airports in Britain and on the Continent.

The biggest changes in customs procedures since the UK joined the Common Market come into force on January 1. It is not too late to make preparations, but companies will have to move quickly. And it will require a commitment by management to fundamental procedural changes and a necessary degree of employee training.

On January 1, the EC switches to a standard customs document for all goods, known as a Single Administrative Document (SAD). EFTA countries are to follow suit.

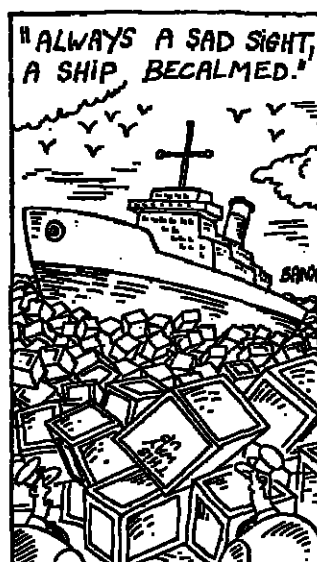
A new harmonised coding system for goods, to be adopted by all major trading nations, will be introduced. In the EC, at the same time, a standardised tariff will come into force. These two systems will be combined in a 14-digit description for all goods, replacing the current eight-digit code. It will show everything from what the goods are to where they came from and whether they are subject to a quota arrangement.

Britain's Customs & Excise is certain that many traders are not ready for these changes. It reckons that there are 50,000 companies in Britain which import at least once a month, and 50,000 equally regular exporters (though it does not know what the overlap between the two groups is). Several weeks ago, only just over 20,000 companies had asked for information about the new system.

It does not take long for a backlog to clog up the ports. Dover, for instance, which has standing room for 800 containers, has 1,200 passing through the port each day.

"It would not be an exaggeration to say that Britain's ports could grind to a halt," says Douglas Tweedle, an assistant secretary at Customs & Excise.

Both Customs & Excise and customs advisers are concerned that importers and exporters have failed to give enough management time to the matter. Customs procedures are



SAD, goods can be cleared in advance if traders send electronic declarations direct to Customs. This system, known as Direct Trader Input, is not new but could now come to the attention of more traders. It is estimated to have cut the average clearance time of goods at Dover from over four hours to two, and at Felixstowe from 24 hours to four.

• Train staff. Once used to the new system, staff dealing with documentation should find life a lot easier. The 100-odd different customs declarations in the EC will be replaced with a single document.

• Review related accounting and computer systems. The cost of introducing the changes is impossible to gauge. Customs & Excise estimates its own direct costs of preparing for the new regime, including training 9,000 customs staff and adapting its computers, to be £5m.

Meanwhile, both Customs & Excise and advisers are hoping for some spin-off benefits from January's changes. Fixing senior managers' attention on customs matters could create a new awareness of planning opportunities and ways of streamlining administration.

Accountancy firms, which in the 1970s spotted the opportunities for helping their clients plan for VAT, now believe that similar opportunities exist in the customs field. Making full use of established reliefs can cut customs duties, for instance.

Also, the country from which goods are imported or to which they are re-exported often affects the amount of duty, using a third country as an intermediary can reduce it.

There are also potential cost savings on the administrative side. Regular importers, for instance, can opt to make customs declarations once a month by computer, rather than on each shipment. Ford, IBM, ICI and Philips are among the 120 companies which use this system, known as Period Entry.

It already accounts for 10 per cent of Britain's imports by volume. But Customs & Excise believes many more companies, and certainly the country's top 1,000, could benefit from switching over.

Canada

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You can start big

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A bit at a birthday

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Money left over when buying

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Sauce for the Scot but not for the Sassenach

By Derek Wheatley

BRITAIN seems to be heading for a situation in which computer hacking will be a crime in Scotland, but will remain an innocent pastime in England.

The roots of an apparently tolerant approach shown by the Court of Appeal to hacking, the unauthorised use of someone else's computer, can be compared to other well established absurdities of English law and one had better begin with these.

Why, for instance, does the user of his employer's telephone to make a private call to America have to be charged with the theft of electricity? Why not create an offence which bears a proper relationship to the reality of the situation? Especially since, in this case, there is a specific offence created by the Post Office Act to cover the same situation when the telephone used is a public one.

Dickens's Mr Bumble (Pickwick Papers) might have thought, had he turned his mind to the point, that the law was even more of an ass if it did not cater for an emerging area of dishonest trickery at all. Computer fraud is already a matter for concern, but some claim that our common law can cope with it without specific legislation.

The system works well when it leaves matters to agreements freely negotiated between reasonable people. An example can be found on looking at the banks' Giro cheque system. The system has been operating perfectly happily for more than 20 years on the basis of rules agreed between the banks without the intervention of Parliament or the courts. A dearth of case law, or serious dispute, in spite of the many millions of transactions there have been, confirms the view that sensible people are often best left to work out their own rules.

However, some of the problems caused by the rapidly spreading use of computers in situations of multiplying complexity cannot be solved by

rules which depend upon the consent of the parties concerned. Imposed solutions become necessary.

The whole subject of computer crime has just been fully considered by the Scottish Law Commission (Report on Computer Crime HMSO July 1987). The Commission's considerations included a number of forms of computer misuse based on hacking, such as erasing or falsifying records or programmes either out of malice or to obtain a fraudulent advantage. Eavesdropping and obtaining information, making use of somebody else's expensive computer time and thus denying access to those authorised to use it, are further examples.

The report catalogues the variety of possible misuse which can now be identified. The Scottish Law Commission proposes a short and simple new Act. This would create an offence for anybody who, without authority, obtained "... access in order to inspect or otherwise to acquire knowledge of the programme or the data or to add to, erase or otherwise alter the programme or the data with the intention - a) of procuring an advantage for himself or another person; or b) of damaging another person's interests".

But the Act extends to Scotland only. It may have been thought that English, unlike Scottish, law was already able to cope with computer crime because of the advantages of the English Common Law system. English courts so far have had no difficulty in deciding

that fraud perpetrated by means of a computer was fraud nonetheless, or that damage caused to the computer of an employer, timed to destroy a programme after the defendant had left his employment, could be malicious damage and a criminal offence. In addition, at the same time as the Scottish Law Commissioners were considering their report, a Crown Court in London had just been trying a case in which two hackers were charged with forgery under the Forgery and Counterfeiting Act 1981.

The defendants, skilled and enthusiastic hackers, had, for their own purposes and without authority, gained entry into the BT Prestel computer network. This had been achieved by a combination of skill, persistence and good luck, by means of which the correct password and identification procedures had been fed into the system by the hackers, who were able to make the same use of the computer as should have been available only to senior employees of Prestel, or their customers who had paid for the service. Confidential information relating to the financial affairs of distinguished customers of Prestel was thus made embarrassingly available to the hackers. However, no direct financial advantage was obtained and nobody else was put to a financial disadvantage by what had been done.

It was embarrassing. It was mischievous. But was it crime? On the directions of the trial judge as to law, the jury said that it was, and that the two

defendants were guilty of forgery under the Act. The Court of Appeal disagreed (*R.V. Gold and Schiffreen* [1987] W.L.R. 803). Under the Act, it was necessary for the prosecution to prove that the defendants had made a "false instrument". The Court of Appeal held that the process of "hacking in", in the circumstances of the case, did not amount to making a false instrument because the "user segment" of the computer, which was that part of the computer which was being "deceived" by what was occurring, held it only for a moment of time. Although forgery under the Act applies to discs, tapes, sound tracks or other devices, it does not apply to part of a computer used solely as a means of access to that computer, and on which the impression made is only transitory.

This is not too surprising a result since to the man in the street, it probably seems a rather curious notion that hacking into a computer should ever have been thought of as forgery. The Lord Chief Justice summed up the result when he said: "The appellants' conduct amounted in essence to dishonestly gaining access to the relevant Prestel Database by a trick. That is not a criminal offence. If it is thought desirable to make it so, that is a matter for the legislature rather than the courts. We expressed no view on the matter."

Parliament has expressed no view either and it seems unlikely that it will have a chance of doing so if the

recommendations of the Scottish Law Commissioners are accepted and the new Act confirmed in its application to Scotland alone. The Lord Chief Justice called it "dishonesty" and dishonesty it surely was. But it was not theft, perhaps because, like the "stolen" telephone call, no "property" was involved.

But the use of a system and the obtaining of information was involved and these were only honestly available to those who had paid for them, as the use of the railway is only honestly obtained by purchasing a ticket. Mr Bumble might think that the law should be able to cope with all forms of dishonesty, including this one.

If it is no offence dishonestly to gain entry to someone else's computer, it would seem to follow that, provided no malicious damage was done, it would be no offence to make use of the computer of a rival organisation or to make use of the knowledge contained in the computer.

Perhaps an oil company might obtain knowledge of the explorations, surveys and conclusions of a rival so as to know whether to bid for drilling rights in a particular part of the North Sea, or so as to be able to make a higher bid. Perhaps knowledge might be obtained of the financial state of the target in a takeover situation so as to know what price to offer for its shares.

There are many possibilities which would appear to be caught by the proposed legislation for Scotland, but which would not be a criminal offence in England after the decision in *R.V. Gold and Schiffreen*, or, for that matter, even an actionable civil wrong. Surely Parliament should be given the opportunity to say that, in relation to this aspect of the law, what is sauce for the Scot should also be sauce for the Sassenach?

The author is Chief Legal Adviser to Lloyds Bank.

Steel rolling in Hungary

DAVEY MCKEE has gained contracts valued at some \$4.5m for the supply of steel rolling mill equipment to Hungary. The equipment, which includes a colliery and automatic gauge control systems, has been ordered by two Hungarian state buying organisations NIKER and Metal Impex, respectively, to be installed in existing hot and cold steel rolling mills in Dunajvaros, about 50 miles from Budapest.

The colliery, complete with mechanical and electrical equip-

ment and process control systems, will be designed and built by Davey McKee's Sheffield plant based on the Canadian Steelco license. It will enable the hot strip mill to roll larger slabs resulting in better material yield and maintain a consistent temperature gradient of the transfer bar entering the finishing mill, resulting in improved quality end product.

The automation equipment includes an hydraulic gauge control system and roll bending

facility complete with computer-based process control system to be installed in the 1,200mm wide cold rolling mill. The main benefits will be improved yield, easier and faster threading and handling of the mill, with reduced off gauge scrap and improved gauge tolerance.

Both contracts include certain mechanical and electrical auxiliary equipment produced in Hungary to Davey design. The new equipment is expected to start operating in autumn 1988.

Centrifuging tarsands

WEIR GROUP subsidiary, Peacock Inc, has won a \$2m order to modify 24 large diameter centrifuges for Syncrude Canada, the world's largest producer of synthetic oil from tarsand deposits. Work is already underway at Peacock's Edmonton plant on the contract, which is expected to be completed by next September.

It takes nearly 18 tonnes of oil sand to produce one cubic metre of synthetic crude oil. Separating the bitumen from the sand is a difficult process, employing centrifuges in the final stages.

These 48in x 96in machines, driven by 250 hp motors, have been running 8-6,000 hours before requiring a complete overhaul to restore performance. By analysis of the problems - mainly

of wear due to the abrasive sand on machines which must maintain close clearances between running parts to perform satisfactorily, Peacock developed several modifications to the original design.

One machine was modified last year and has been in service now for more than 8,000 hours, and still shows little sign of wear or degradation of performance. The projection is that this machine should complete at least 12,000 hours without loss of process efficiency.

In addition to maintaining better oil recovery and longer life, the operators have noted a reduction in power absorbed of as much as 30 per cent, the company claims.

Lighthouses for China

AN order for more than \$400,000 has been awarded by A B PHAROS MARINE to supply aids to navigation to the Ministry of Communications in China. The navals will be installed in the ports of Shanghai, Tianjin and Guangzhou.

The equipment will be supplied in the second and third quarters of 1988 in six shipments and includes major lighthouse equipment, rotating beacons, lead lights, radio beacons and radars.

The Ministry will also send technicians to Pharos Marine's

London facility for technical training. This is the first time that Pharos Marine has supplied radars and radio beacons to China. The two radars will be the first agile-frequency marine radars to be installed in that country.

The contract negotiations have paved the way for meetings on long-term co-operation between the Ministry of Communications and Pharos Marine. The Ministry will be sending a delegation to London during early 1988 to start discussions.

Equipping NZ army

TREND TELECOMMUNICATIONS, part of the Trend group, has won two contracts totalling more than \$1m for the supply of secure communications equipment meeting UK and NATO Tempest standards. In the first deal, representing probably the largest single Tempest export order for any British supplier, the New Zealand army has ordered Tempest equipment to the value of \$457,000. The sale comprises a number of Trend 615 ESR intelligent teleprinters, paper tape attachments and PC 127 software, as well as Europe's only fully approved IBM compatible Tempest personal computer, the 625 AT. Other accessories such as anti-vibration platforms indicate the NZ army is to use the equipment for mobile communications use in the field. The order was handled by Trend's distributor Northrop in Wellington, part of Datamatic Holdings Pty of Sydney, Australia.

In a contract extension worth \$680,000, Trend has sold a number of its 615 ESR intelligent teleprinters to British Telecom for installation on the DTN. The deal includes paper tape attachments and Trend 628A network wire centres. The 628As will be used to configure networks using fibre optics in Army and Air Force Commands.

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ISSUES OF GOVERNMENT STOCK

The Bank of England announces that Her Majesty's Treasury has created on 21st December 1987, and has issued to the Bank, additional amounts as indicated of each of the following Stocks:

£100 million 10 per cent TREASURY LOAN, 1993
£100 million 9½ per cent CONVERSION STOCK, 2004
£100 million 2 per cent INDEX-LINKED TREASURY STOCK, 2006

The price paid by the Bank on issue was in each case the middle market price of the relevant Stock at 3.30 p.m. on 21st December 1987 as certified by the Government Broker.

In addition, Her Majesty's Treasury has created on 21st December 1987, and has issued to the National Debt Commissioners for public funds under their management, additional amounts as indicated of each of the following Stocks:

£150 million 10½ per cent EXCHEQUER STOCK, 1997
£100 million 9½ per cent TREASURY STOCK, 2002

In each case, the amount issued on 21st December 1987 represents a further tranche of the relevant Stock, ranking in all respects *par passu* with that Stock and subject to the terms and conditions applicable to that Stock, and subject also to the provision contained in the first paragraph of this notice; the current provisions for Capital Gains Tax are described below.

Application has been made to the Council of The International Stock Exchange for each further tranche of stock to be admitted to the Official List.

Copies of the prospectuses for 10 per cent Treasury Loan, 1993 dated 7th February 1986, 10 per cent Treasury Conversion Stock, 2004 dated 13th January 1984 (which contained the terms of issue of 9½ per cent Conversion Stock, 2004) and 2 per cent Index-Linked Treasury Stock, 2006 dated 3rd July 1981 (as amended by the supplement to the prospectus dated 9th March 1982) may be obtained at the Bank of England, New Issues, Watling Street, London EC4M 8AA.

The Stocks are repayable, and interest is payable half-yearly, on the dates shown below (in the case of 2 per cent Index-Linked Treasury Stock, 2006 provision is made in the prospectus for stockholders to be offered the right of early redemption under certain circumstances):

Stock	Redemption date	Interest payment dates
10 per cent Treasury Loan, 1993	15th April 1993	15th April 15th October
9½ per cent Conversion Stock, 2004	25th October 2004	25th April 25th October
2 per cent Index-Linked Treasury Stock, 2006	19th July 2006	19th January 19th July

10 per cent Treasury Loan, 1993 and 9½ per cent Conversion Stock, 2004 are repayable at par.

Both the principal of and the interest on 2 per cent Index-Linked Treasury Stock, 2006 are indexed to the General Index of Retail Prices. The Index figure relevant to any month is that published seven months previously and relating to the month before the month of publication. The Index figure relevant to the month of issue of 2 per cent Index-Linked Treasury Stock, 2006 is that relating to November 1980 (274.1). This Index figure will be used for the purposes of calculating payments of principal and interest due in respect of the further tranche of stock: as provided for in the prospectus, the calculations will take account of the revision of the index to a new base of January 1987 = 100 (on the old base the index for January 1987 was 394.5).

The relevant Index figures for the half-yearly interest payments on 2 per cent Index-Linked Treasury Stock, 2006 are as follows:

Interest payable	Published in	Relevant index figure	Relating to
January	June of the previous year	May	December of the previous year
July	December of the previous year	November	

The further tranches of 10 per cent Treasury Loan, 1993 and 9½ per cent Conversion Stock, 2004 will rank for a full six months' interest on the next interest payment date applicable to the relevant Stock. The further tranche of 2 per cent Index-Linked Treasury Stock, 2006 has been issued on a non-dividend basis and will not rank for the interest payment due on 19th January 1988. Official dealings in the Stocks on The International Stock Exchange are expected to commence on Tuesday, 22nd December 1987.

10 per cent Treasury Loan, 1993, 9½ per cent Conversion Stock, 2004 and 2 per cent Index-Linked Treasury Stock, 2006 are specified, under paragraph 1 of Schedule 2 to the Capital Gains Tax Act 1979 as gilt-edged securities under current legislation exempt from tax on capital gains, irrespective of the period for which the Stocks are held.

Government statement
Attention is drawn to the statement issued by Her Majesty's Treasury on 23rd May 1985 which explained that, in the interest of the orderly conduct of fiscal policy, neither Her Majesty's Government nor the Bank of England or their respective servants or agents undertake to disclose tax changes decided or not yet announced, even where they may specifically affect the terms on which, or the conditions under which, these further tranches of stock are issued or sold by or on behalf of the Government or the Bank; that no responsibility can therefore be accepted for any omission to make such disclosure; and that such omission shall neither render any transaction liable to be set aside nor give rise to any claim for compensation.

BANK OF ENGLAND
LONDON
21st December 1987

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Television/Christopher Dunkley

Revenge and evil on the rampage

Immediately after the Hungerford massacre two BBC dramas were postponed for fear that their violence would offend. According to the BBC there was nothing wrong with the programmes - they were very proud of them - but they would no more show them immediately after Hungerford than they would have shown *Touring Inferno* immediately after the Bradford fire disaster.

Now we have seen both works, the one-off musical/drama *Body Contact*, and the three-part adaptation of *The Marksmen*, and to me it seems a pity that the BBC did not take the excuse offered by Hungerford and postpone them both indefinitely. *Body Contact* was all style and no content: an over extended pop video based on callow ideas about the urban nightmare, tricked out with excessive and gratuitous violence.

In this column a couple of years ago the exciting work of young pop video directors and scratch video enthusiasts was pointed out, and it was suggested that there was more flair and technical virtuosity here than anywhere in television drama. But it is no good assuming that if you take people with such technical skills and put them in the hands of network time you will get great, or even competent, drama. What *Body Contact* showed is that if you give a pop video director 60 minutes of television time, he will produce a 60-minute video - which is a bit like being given a 7th ice cream.

As for *The Marksmen*, it did have some delightful and clever touches: the perpetual auditioning of newly arrived comedians in the night club, the weird but wholly convincing co-and-box arrangement at the bookshop, and Richard Griffiths' hand signals from his clapped out Morris Traveller. But clever

touches do not make a drama serial. If you are going to raise profound questions about such timeless subjects as evil and revenge then the least you can do is attempt some sort of resolution. Here all we had was a perpetual sense of threat and fairly frequent violence, much of it decidedly nasty.

London Weekend Television have suffered something of a setback in their hitherto remarkably successful attempt to take over the entire BBC by stealth: their chief mole, Michael Grade, who was about to become Managing Director of BBC Television (an achievement not unlike that of a Russian agent becoming head of MI6) turned triple-agent and moved into Channel 4. Yet the scheme continues.

John Birt, who succeeded Grade as Programme Controller at LWT, is now the BBC's deputy Director-General in charge of all news and current affairs programmes, and the powerful journalist in the Corporation. He has appointed as head of BBC Current Affairs Samir Shah, the editor of LWT's *London Programme*, and LWT produced David Aaronovitch, an editor of the new BBC political programme which is to replace *This Week Next Week*. Now two more LWT trainees have been infiltrated: Janet Street Porter, who will be 41 later this year, is to be the BBC's "Voice Your" adviser on all things juvenile; and Clive James - at a salary said to be a mere six times that of Miss Street Porter - has signed an exclusive BBC contract.

How long can it be before Melvyn Bragg leaves LWT's *South Bank Show* to take over all arts and music for the BBC? And if the analogy is to hold up, who is

Control sitting in Kent House on London's South Bank, running the BBC's housekeepers, lamp-lighters, scalphunters - the entire Circus? Presumably LWT Chairman and Managing Director Brian Tester.

Talking of Clive James, it is true he hoped that his move from LWT to the BBC signals a change in the television material. BBC's new controller Alan Yentob has been quoted as saying that James could be involved in rather more serious programmes, and that, surely, is an understatement. It has been said to witness James' decline from Britain's funniest newspaper columnist to a knockabout television presenter in the mould of *Serie and Heiney*.

All the money and publicity in the world surely cannot make up for the indignity of being turned into one of those television "personalities" who has to spend his entire time trying to kid the viewers that he walked into something by chance - the bedroom of a bordello, the back of a Tokyo taxi, the foyer of a robot manufacturer's office - when, as we can all see, there is the likelihood of a carefully prepared camera crew to explain away.

No doubt James has had fun in the last few years getting into the girls' changing rooms, ogling the Pirelli calendar models, taking the mucky out of the Japanese, and now - in *Clive James in Japan* - smoothly sliding sideways to include himself in the game-show send up. But we know from his writing that he is capable of better than that.

James was the television critic who did most to ridicule the affectations of presenters, pouring scorn on bald men who would their remaining hair

round their heads, and on James Burke for his presentation mannerisms. Now the posh has turned gamekeeper, and we are treated to the unlikely sight of the bald and tubby James dithering around Tokyo in track suit or kimono like a latterday George Plimpton. Yentob must surely be able to find something which will test his talent and reward our attention more than that.

Granada's fascinating re-enactment of the Iceland summit, *Breakthrough At Reykjavik*, was also a breakthrough for producers Norma Percy and Brian Lapping. For the first time since their earliest attempt at this important form of television journalism in *Christopher and The Cabinet* eleven years ago, nobody, so far as I am aware, has seriously questioned the legitimacy of their technique.

Public attention has concentrated on the almost spooky similarities between the actors Robert Beatty and Timothy West and their real-life originals, Reagan and Gorbachev. There has been comment upon the accuracy of Beatty's hand gestures, and upon the incidentals: the Americans' soundproofed car, even the set dressing for the interior of the Icelandic house.

But nobody seems concerned with the question of the accuracy of the crucial material: the words spoken between the two sides, or not enough to throw any doubt on them, anyway. This is surely a huge compliment to Percy and Lapping - who did, indeed, establish their credentials long ago, but were still being doubted until this effort - and to Ronald Harwood who



Joely Richardson in "Body Contact"

drafted the script. It is also, I suspect, a vindication of the decision to add to the end of the programme brief sequences showing some of the Americans who were involved commenting upon the startling accuracy of the Granada version. After that how can any layman raise doubts?

When Barbara Flynn and James Bolam first came to the screen as the persecuted innocents in Alan Plater's *Bedroom Boogie*, the formula was such a success that it seemed clear they would have to be brought back. The tone set by the traditional jazz was pleasant; the decision to handle weighty matters such as environmental pollution, with a light touch was admirably original; the relationship between the two leading characters suggested real affection - a quality absent from virtually all television drama which

ordinary people, however, greatly enjoy; and of course the scripts were funny, especially when they involved the comprehensive school, San Quentin (!).

Sure enough we have now been allowed the huge treat of a second helping, *The Bedroom Boogie*. Preserved the jazz, the light touch, the pleasing relationship, the humour and the school. The only trouble was it also preserved the plot. The only change Plater bothered to make was a minor alteration to the McGuffin: in place of gramophone recordings he inserted cassette recordings.

Admittedly this did not matter very much, and we did have the bonus of Beryl Reid as a tough old suffragette, and some pretty location footage shot in Amsterdam. Nevertheless there were times, particularly in the second half, when the plot became so relaxed that it was in danger of falling asleep. The series was still hugely enjoyable, but if we are to have another - and please let us - could we have just a smidgen more plot?

Letter from New York

Paula Deltz

At night New York seems strewn with a mantle of stardust and glitter, the first sign of Christmas comes when the two stone lions flanking the grand staircase of the New York Public Library are decked out with 60-pound holly wreaths. Beyond the marble entrance hall, the library, completed in 1911, has undergone a major renovation to restore to their former use and grandeur the immense Beaux-Arts galleries that had declined into office space.

Of these, Gottesman Exhibition Hall, with its freestanding marble arches and elaborate carved wood ceilings, is a properly dramatic setting for one of the season's most energetic shows, *William Wordsworth and the Age of English Romanticism*. This studios collection of some 300 books, manuscripts, paintings, watercolours and ephemera runs every moment. The curators, including the poet's descendant, Jonathan Wordsworth, have collected the evidence - this watercolour by Turner or Constable, a journal notation on a doorknob by Dorothy Wordsworth, and manuscripts by Wordsworth, Coleridge, Keats and other contemporaries - and have left it to us to re-experience the mutual influences of an age.

It is sometimes easy to dismiss a period of innovation by saying "it is in the air," but here is proof positive of literate men and women seeking knowledge from each other as well as from the exhilaration and boundlessness of Nature. Though many of the oil paintings in the exhibition demonstrate a brooding quality - like Turner's "Rain, Steam, and Great Bridge" or Constable's "The Great Oval Room" - the watercolours or aquatints, like Alexander Cozens' three studies called "A New Method of Ascertaining the Invention in Drawing Original Compositions of Landscape," reproduce

the quick energy of the poet's own manuscript versions. Many connections are obvious. *"The Rainbow"* (here copied out by Constable) is illustrated as the image linking imagination and nature by both Constable and Turner. But in the last section of the exhibition, "Memory, Imagination and the Sublime," the examples have a more subtle quality relating to the august power of the mind - the Alps are one pictorial equivalent and the haunting loneliness of Thomas Gericin's luminous "White House at Chelsea," another. By this time, one has been through the age of revolutions; seen what Hazlitt called "the Spirit of the Age," and witnessed the discovery of nature even as it was "threatened by industrialisation." (In New York until January; Chicago Historical Society, 6 April - 5 June, 1988.)

Three blocks south on Fifth Avenue, Lord & Taylor weaves its annual holiday tales of enchantment in its store windows by paying tribute to other historic landmarks from the first decade of this century. Along with this ornate architecture went a gracious way of life portrayed with ninety 18-to-20-inch animated figures in realistic period dress. Because New Yorkers still aspire to this seasonal opulence, thousands of adults and children wait in the viewing line.

In the first scene Carnegie Hall's facade on a snow-driven revival, directed by Mike Ockrent and designed by Maria Bjornson, of Sondheimer's 1971 musical, *Cats*, led by Dolores Gray, Julia McKenzie, Diana Rigg, Daniel Massey. All good. (835 5585).

den is the backdrop for skaters and sleighs. For interior views, a gala evening in the Grand Hall of the Carnegie Museum (now the Cooper-Hewitt Museum) is a more intimate celebration on a dramatic scale; and finally, the St. Regis Hotel's ornate lobby welcomes New York's transient celebrants for its first Christmas in 1904.

The irony is that all of these places, beautifully preserved, still exist - a quick stop at the St. Regis confirms that inlaid marble floors and brass cupolas over glass revolving doors are intact.

In a sense, *Raphael and His Circle* at the Pierpont Morgan Library is also a British show, having been organized by John Gero, former keeper of Prints and Drawings at the British Museum and based more or less on the 1983 exhibit there with loans from British collections as well as from others in North America. But as scholarship shifts and intensifies, each new assemblage of drawings becomes a fresh occasion - and here also, the main gallery of the Morgan Library is an ideal venue for cross comparison and quiet viewing. Fortunately for posterity, Raphael, whether earlier in Florence or later in Rome, left nothing to chance in his final compositions - as one can see from the two close-lipped, jeweled blue-and-white porcelain pen boxes. As another in the series of "Treasures of..." exhibitions so popular in our age, *The Age of Raphael* is a magnificent opportunity to see the master's work in its own context. The Morgan Library is a gem of a museum, and its curators are to be commended for their efforts to present it in a new light. As Mr Gero generously lets us in on procedures and opinions, we are initiated into making precise judgments of our own about the 41 drawings by Raphael and a number of questionable attribution.

A sheet printed for transfer as in "The Agony in the Garden," reveals the drawing's first copy in essence before other details were refined. But also, comparing the fluid drapery, transparent wings, and precarious pose of the "Study for the Circus Poet" with the finished model of Poetry in the Vatican, one senses a less official, more personal vision. And in seeing "The Transfiguration" one cannot help but imagine how powerful the unfinished altarpiece must have appeared over Raphael's head in the Pantheon when he died at 37 in 1520. Works by his most important followers are hung in an adjoining gallery (through 3 January).

1520 was also the year Sultan Suleyman the Magnificent ascended to the throne of the Ottoman Empire bringing to a height the flowering of Turkish Art and Architecture. The Ottomans required their rulers to have a practical trade, and that Suleyman was a goldsmith was not not incidentally to the richly encrusted gold and jeweled objects that were everywhere accessories to daily life, from his sceptre and royal canteen for pure fresh water (symbols of his power) to a simple jeweled blue-and-white porcelain pen box.

As another in the series of "Treasures of..." exhibitions so popular in our age, *The Age of Suleyman* is a magnificent opportunity to see the master's work in its own context. The Metropolitan Museum of Art (through 17 January) never fails to reveal an imprint of this powerful and artistic man, whether it be his Tugra, a monogram in a flourish of calligraphy ordaining a new law, or his poems set down in his own hand. There is a concentration of style in the objects that makes the show feel provincial and yet does not detract from the imaginative proliferation of fanciful or naturalistic floral styles that embellish the mostly blue-and-white porcelains as well as the textiles. But nothing equals the illuminated folios of Suleyman's own collection, as transcribed by his artists in and around the palace Topkapı, except perhaps for one prayer rug depicting a celestial garden pavilion.

Before leaving the Metropolitan at this time of year, everyone



Raphael's drawing of "Poetry"

passes a few moments in the Medieval Sculpture Hall where before the Spanish chivalry screen rises a 20-ft Nordic griffin. At its base a rare 18th-century crèche is set up within the ruins of a Roman temple, and some 180 Neapolitan crèche figures - Magi, shepherds and other weary travellers, attendants and their animals - make their way to the Nativity scene through the rugged landscape and villages set out around the tree. And "soaring" above them in the tree itself is a multitude of Baroque angels, colourfully draped figures, full of movement and glory.

Babes in the Wood/Palladium

Michael Coveney

This is easily the best pantomime at the London Palladium for a very long time and one of the best I have ever seen. I am in danger of cancelling my objections to Cannon and Ball, who remind me each time I see them on television how much I miss Morecambe and Wise. But then I pause and thank God they are not Little and Large.

"Piggin" this and "piggin" that, the duo is strong on aggression and short on finesse. But they are not unlikeable. As the robbers, they take the stage like a pair of upstart dockers. The nicest thing about them, in fact, is that they are showbiz imposters. In a chaotic kitchen scene of tumbling and smashing crockery, they look at home for the first time in blue boiler suits. For the rest of the evening, Bobby (the short, curly-haired one) is tugging at his rights and cursing his crushed credentials.

Tattily designed large-scale panto has become the national norm in recent years. Hugh Durrant has now supplied a splendid procession of medieval picture book cloths and castellated townscapes that correspond to a consistently conceived fairytale Nottingham. Much of it comes with Pre-Raphaelite bordering and decoration, and the action moves from mist-laden grottos with distant romantic views of ruined castles and viaducts to a carefully painted fairytale-on-Trent of riotous colour and trick perspectives.

The traditional mix of the Robin Hood legend and the aborted murder of the princeling babes is acknowledged in Bryan Blackburn's script, even if echoes of rhyming couplets fade faster than Liverpool's chances of defeat. The Goose Fair is well placed to accommodate an act on stilts, the acrobatic Loonies (Popeye, Groucho and Superman, inter alia, boomed around by a fetching young mistress) and finally Rod Hull and his destruct-

tive Emu.

This last act sought out Adam from Finner in the front stalls and left the little lad to sing us a song while searching for tops. But nothing went on for too long and we were soon back at the Fair and the archery contest, convincingly won by Marti Webb's disguised Robin shooting not Little and Large.

Babes is a difficult panto because of the various pulls on our sympathies. When well done, as here, it is one of the best, and all parties can happily prosper. The songs are a stock middle-of-the-road Miss Webb, scoring another bulls-eye with "You've Got A Friend" to comfort the wood-swathed babes. "Together Wherever We Go" from *Gypsy* comes in handy for resolute choruses, the goodies line up to enter the lists.

Barbara Windsor in glittering turquoise and butterfly wings can as easily take our attention as can Derek Griffiths as a splendidly limber, sleek and villainous Sheriff, exuding sulkily the minute he enters to an inadequate round of boogie. The Dame is tricky, but John Inman is one of the best and in top form as Nurse Wanda, got up variously as a map of the world, a Beilsha beacon and a Maypole (I've had men swinging round me all afternoon).

Michael Hurll's production moves quickly on but still gives three hours of good value. Even the school and haunted bedroom sequences are related to the overall design, and there is a particularly ravishing Act One finale, a dream pageant of real fountains, heraldic tapestries and shields, a medieval court in full fig and Marti Webb descending, as if in a masque, on a cardboard fiery steed as Saint George.

They can keep *The Wizard of Oz*. And, for what it's worth, my two ten-year old colleagues are with me all the way.

Arts Guide

December 18-24

Theatre

LONDON

The Rover (Marmaduke). Jeremy Irons returns into town in the RSC's Swan production by John Barton of Aphra Behn's rollicking comedy. It features a repertory cast of the nobly play, *Scarcophagus*, an urgent but clumsily crafted historical drama set in a terminal radiation clinic as the first victims of the disaster are wheeled in. (286 5585/538 8891).

Antony and Cleopatra (Olivier). Peter Hall's production for the National Theatre leaves in 1986 brings this great but notoriously difficult play to thrilling life. (338 2282).

The Phantom of the Opera (Her Majesty). Spectacularly emotionalising new musical by Andrew Lloyd Webber emphasising the romance in Leroux's 1911 novel. (338 2284, C0278 6181/240 7800).

The Balcony (Barbican). Sadly dated and heavily-handed opening to the RSC's *Geometries* series, not helping to fight suspicions that the RSC, certainly in London, is stretched way beyond its creative capacities. Terry Hands directs, Patrick's set looks like a cheap little brothel and the actors, a dull lot, clump around on high boots in big bulging costumes. (828 8785).

Polites (Shaftesbury). Stunning revival, directed by Mike Ockrent and designed by Maria Bjornson, of Sondheimer's 1971 musical, *Cats*, led by Dolores Gray, Julia McKenzie, Diana Rigg, Daniel Massey. All good. (835 5585).

Baroness Mowsey (Wyndham's). Transfer from Royal Court of Caryl Churchill's slick City comedy for champagne-swilling yuppie: how the Big Bang led to class turmoil and

barrow-boy dealings on the Stock Exchange. (274 8628, C0278 6181).

A Small Family Business (Olivier). Brilliant new Alan Ayckbourn play about Britain on the fiddle in greedy times, selling out to foreigners in the family. A comedy thriller on the large scale. (228 2282).

NEW YORK

Fences (46th Street). August Wilson hit a home-run, this year's Pulitzer Prize, with James Earl Jones taking the powerful lead role of an old baseball player raising a family in an industrial city in the 1950s. (221-1211).

Cats (Winter Garden). Still a sellout, Trevor Nunn's production of T.S. Eliot's children's poetry set to trendy music is visually startling but classic only in the sense of a rather staid and over-blown idea of theatricality. (238 6262).

42nd Street (Majestic). An immodest celebration of the heyday of Broadway in the 1930s incorporates gems from the original film, like Shuffie Off To Buffalo, with the appropriately bombastic and leggy hooty by a large chorus line. (377 9020).

A Chorus Line (Shubert). The longest home-run, this year's Pulitzer Prize, has not only supported Joseph Papp's Public Theater for almost 20 years but also updated the musical genre with its backstage story in which the songs are used as sections rather than emotions. (238 6300).

I'm Not Rappaport (Booth). The Tony's best play of 1986 won on the strength of its work-of-mouth popularity for the two oldsters on Central Park benches who bicker uproariously about life past, present and future with a funny plot to match. (238 6200).

Les Miserables (Broadway). Led by Colin Wilkinson repeating his West End role as Jean Valjean, the magnificent spectacle of Victor Hugo's majestic sweep of history and pathos brings to Broadway lessons in pageantry and drama, if not strict adherence to its original source. (238 6200).

Starlight Express (Gershwin). Those who saw the original at the Victoria in London will barely recognise its American incarnation: the skaters do not have to go round the whole theatre but do get good exercise in the spruced-up stage to distract from the hackneyed pop music and trumped-up sily plot. (886 6510).

Me and My Girl (Marquis). Even if the plot turns on ironic mimicry of Pygmalion, this is no classic, with forgettable songs and dated leadenness. But it has proved to be a double Broadway hit with its marvellous lead role for an agile, engaging and deft actor, preferably British. (947 0033).

The Mahabharata (RAM Majestic). Peter Brook's nine-hour interpretation of the world's longest poem. Ends Jan 3 (947 5555).

WASHINGTON

Light on the Sky (Arena). The revival of the Moss Hart comedy features theatre people waiting for the opening-night notices of their latest masterpiece. (458 9300).

TOKYO

Macbeth (Imperial Theatre). Every actor's nightmare, this production is staged that makes one revise one's view of the play. That such a rethinking should be occasioned by a production in Japanese is nothing short of miraculous. Not only has Yukio Ninagawa transposed the play from medieval Scotland into the world of the Japanese samurai, but he has brought to it an oriental sensitivity and sense of pictorial colour that transcends all language barriers. Following its triumph at the National Theatre, London, this revival in Tokyo is an unforgettable experience. (Ends Dec 25) (201 7777).

Kabuki (Kabuki-za). At 4pm a "new" play incorporating elements from existing dramas and based on the story of the 47 loyal retainers adapted, directed by and starring Kabuki's greatest showman, Ennosuke, a specialist in spectacular stunts and quick-change routines. Excellent examples of the most serious of serious kabuki. (provided by Brighton's Shandy Stage School) are used constructively, chatting with the actors and chirping along with the songs besides contributing their customary cuteness to the dancing. They also scream at the first entrance of Annette Rice, signifying to those of us who might be tempted to doubt it that she is a Star.

Noh (National Noh Theatre, Sendagaya). "Takekuni" (noh), Wakana (kyogen). Originating in sacred rituals, noh is a predominantly tragic drama of illusion played on an empty stage. Lighter relief is provided by the comic interlude (kyogen). (223 1331).

Deleasa Butai in "Modern Horror" (Shimo-Kita-za). The youthful theatre group has a large following among the rock video generation, which likes to be bombarded by sound and images. Its latest production is overpaid but undisciplined and in the style of a musical revue. Ends Dec 25 (367 0292).

Jack and the Beanstalk/Brighton

Claire Armitstead

Pantomimes, like Christmas, only come once a year, which is a good thing in many ways. It is particularly good for the people writing them, since it gives their audiences 12 months to forget that last year's jokes are also this year's jokes. In the case of E&S Productions, some of the Theatre Royal, Brighton's jokes are also Richmond's, but if one is presenting 13 panto across the country such economies are doubtless essential - and to be fair, it would take an itinerant critic to spot them.

Jack and the Beanstalk is a rather restrained expedition into seasonal jollity, intelligently directed by Roy Jones but lacking in weight towards the top of the bill. For once the panto is provided by Brighton's Shandy Stage School) are used constructively, chatting with the actors and chirping along with the songs besides contributing their customary cuteness to the dancing. They also scream at the first entrance of Annette Rice, signifying to those of us who might be tempted to doubt it that she is a Star.

Maurice Colbourne is also a Star, though his performance as the wicked Baron Killjoy is so handsomely distanced that he could well be fishing for mackerel in Howard's Way.

There is something immensely dispiriting about a panto in which the performers seem merely to be going through the motions. If this charge could be laid at Colbourne's feet, it could also be levelled at Barry Howard's throwaway dame. This hugely experienced performer seems so anxious not to labour his gags that he barely gets them out of bed, concentrating his energy instead on showering his audience with sweets (it is certainly a very generous show) and keeping upright in a succession of ever more outrageous outfits (it is also a lavishly costumed show).

The task of working the audience falls mainly on Nick Staverson, who does remarkably well at cajoling them into following a series of instructions more complicated than the usual "look behind you's". Staverson further contributes a good Gary Glitter impersonation, sharing the musical hours with Claire Rimmer's glamorous fairy and Andrea Levine's winsome princess.

Quite what they all see in Annette's Jack I'm not sure: she is slightly enough, but at the risk of upsetting the Shandy School set, I would suggest she is not really a stage performer.

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OECD report: try harder

WITH the school term over, pupils find the pleasures of the festivities blighted by the arrival of the school report. So it is with finance ministers, for whom the equivalent event is the appearance of the OECD's Economic Outlook, published two days before Christmas.

The last report appeared only six months ago, but these have been exciting months. The overall performance of the OECD countries in the past six months appears to have been better than that anticipated (except in West Germany), but what has been given the markets have taken away. The unexpectedly rapid growth of the second part of 1987 was associated with persistent current account imbalances. Private investors have intervened decisively, first imposing rising interest rates and then inflicting the equity market crash of mid-October.

The principal effect of the stock market crash is expected to be via the reduction in wealth. GNP growth in the OECD is now expected to be only some 2 per cent in 1988 and 1989, a half percentage point lower than the level projected before the crash, bringing the projection for 1988 back to where it was last June. The OECD stresses that its projections are conditional, with the conditions including unchanged exchange rates from the level of November 10 (which are already history), no pervasive loss of consumer and investor confidence and "unchanged policy". The results on these assumptions include a projection of the US current account deficit at \$134bn in 1988 and \$105bn even in 1989.

One has to wonder whether "unchanged policy" and the continuation of external imbalances at the projected levels are compatible with stable exchange rates and no loss of confidence by consumers and investors. On the contrary, these projections appear to be a recipe for further shocks and the assumptions, accordingly, internally inconsistent.

The doubt centres on what is being said about external adjustment and overall growth. The Outlook projects 1 per cent growth of domestic demand for the US in 1988 and 1989, 4 and then 3½ per cent for Japan, and 2½ and then 2 per cent for

Europe. Corresponding projections for GNP are 2½ and 1½ per cent for the US, 3½ and 3 per cent for Japan, and 1½ and 1½ per cent for Europe. There are two implications: first, the gap between growth of demand and output are not large enough to secure rapid unwinding of the imbalances; second, the overall level of growth of GNP is unsatisfactorily low, above all in Europe.

Fiscal contraction

"Unchanged policy", it turns out, actually means reducing the inflation-adjusted structural fiscal deficit for the OECD as a whole, by 0.2 per cent of GNP in 1988 and 0.3 per cent of GNP in 1989. Moreover, what is involved is more than a failure to offset the US fiscal contraction. Europe, too, is expected to experience a fiscal contraction in 1988 and 1989, while Germany is projected to show a tiny loosening of the inflation-adjusted structural fiscal deficit in 1988 and an equivalent tightening in 1989.

The puzzle is why European countries, especially West Germany, should face the prospect with such complacency. After all, the end of a long period of weak "recovery" sees Europe with unprecedented rates of unemployment. Given the weakening external position of many European countries, however, the key player is West Germany. Her continued immobility on both fiscal policy and, equally important, the promotion of a more competitive and dynamic domestic economy is incomprehensible. Indeed, so long as it persists, it is far from obvious that US fiscal adjustment, already substantial in 1987, should go further.

The OECD's bureaucratic prose would probably make it difficult for the dinner pupils to sustain attention throughout the text, but there is a clear message and some have even noticed what it is. Action is unlikely, however, as is indicated by the response of West Germany. The German delegation has taken the unprecedented step of rejecting a key recommendation in advance of the publication of the report. How hard it must be for even the wisest teacher to deal with such recalcitrant pupils.

A momentous judgment

In its pursuit of all publications that would quote from or refer to the contents of the book, *Spycatcher*, the British Government is now ruler in the position of Captain Bligh in the *Bounty*. As recalled by Mr Anthony Lewis of the New York Times in a recent address in London, the doctored commander ordered that a recalcitrant seaman be given 100 lashes. After a portion of the sentence had been carried out a report was made: "The man is dead, sir. Shall we continue?" Captain Bligh replied: "I ordered 100 lashes, and 100 lashes it shall be. Carry on." In much the same way the Government has sought to prohibit any reference in British newspapers to the matter contained in a book of which more than a million copies have been bought, including a significant number imported into Britain.

In delivering his judgment in the High Court on Tuesday, Mr Justice Scott further noted that all the more important allegations in *Spycatcher* had previously been published in Britain, in one of many books or TV programmes. Thus there was no longer any duty of confidence on newspapers or other third parties in relation to the information contained in the book (although its author, Mr Peter Wright, a retired member of the security services, was in breach of that duty in writing *Spycatcher* and having it published). He therefore rejected the claims made by the Attorney General for permanent injunctions that would prohibit two newspapers from commenting on the contents of the book and stop one from printing further extracts.

Copyright

That should be the end of the matter. A pragmatic Attorney General, backed by a Prime Minister with a sense of proportion, would accept Mr Justice Scott's verdict. The Government might follow up the opportunity given in the judgment to seek an account of any profits made from publication of extracts from the book; the material could be regarded as Government copyright. But it should not follow the path to

what Lord Bridge, in an earlier judgment, referred to as "inevitable condemnation and humiliation by the European Court of Human Rights in Strasbourg".

The fact that, in appealing Mr Justice Scott's verdict, it is following precisely that path, puts its fate in the hands of the Court of Appeal and, perhaps, the House of Lords. The Scott judgment explains with exceptional clarity that, in the absence of guiding legislation or a constitutional instrument like the First Amendment in the United States, it is up to the courts to strike a balance between the two competing public interests of the freedom of the press and the preservation of national security.

Neither interest is absolute. At the outset the Government had a duty to protect the confidentiality of the security services. Freedom to publish was at that time the lesser consideration. But it is no longer possible to protect that confidentiality in the present instance, while other putative writers might be deterred by a government pursuit through the courts that has plainly enhanced the sales of Mr Wright's book. As to the ability of the press freely to report allegations of scandals in government, Mr Justice Scott pointed out that this is one of the bulwarks of our democracy. If the price is the exposure of the government of the day to pressure or embarrassment, even when mischievous and false allegations are made, then that price has to be paid.

There are times when newspapers go too far, or occasions when, in spite of a general outcry about the freedom of the press, the safeguarding of the security of the nation is paramount. Mr Justice Scott has simply demonstrated that this is not one of those moments; that it is, rather, a period during which the Government is showing an increasing tendency to hide possible administrative misjudgments behind a security cloak. The executive is beginning to over-assert itself. Only the higher judiciary can redress the balance.

Roderick Oram recalls the ups and downs of a roller-coaster year on Wall Street

When the heart ruled the head

A GHOST of Wall Street—past rose in a Manhattan court—a week before Christmas to be sentenced for criminal excess. An expensive suit hung slackly on his shrunken frame. Adversity had knocked the dazzling calceate-canary grin off his face. His once insidious voice, which had winked rich secrets out of the greedy and gullible, mumbled inaudibly to the judge.

Ivan Boesky, notorious takeover speculator and insider trader, was a broken man—“cut down to size,” the judge said. But in the light of his financial downfall, apparent remorse and extensive co-operation with investigators, which has shed the most light on Wall Street's dark side in 50 years, a prison term of only three years was deemed appropriate. With time off for good behaviour, he might be out in a year.

Wall Street should be so lucky. Guilty of speculative excess, violation of investment fundamentals and grand delusions about perpetually rising stock prices, it will pay the penalties for years to come.

The excitement was too seductive and few had the sense to jump before they were bucked

Less profit, confidence and public esteem; more competition, regulation and self-discipline will mark its agonising retrenchment.

Some firms will pay the ultimate price. They will cease to exist, at least, in their independence. The verdict is clear. Yet Wall Street deserves the sympathy of judge and jury. Whatever the computer programming, “rocket scientists” say, Wall Street is still run by people not machines. Thus it remains highly vulnerable to emotions. Of course it was right to ride the bull market for all its pyrotechnic splendour—only to crash even more spectacularly. Up and down, they were once-in-a-lifetime markets.

No doubt, the lessons so painfully learnt will only be remembered until the next rip-snap market. Who could resist taking the plunge again? Few resisted when the last phase of the five-year bull market sprang to life in the first moments of trading in 1987. Stocks surged ahead, propelled by a mixture of merger mania, slightly lower interest rates, a modest pick-up in economic activity and the end of

the negative effects of US tax reform.

One final ingredient made the mixture explosive. Vast sums of cash were burning holes in the pockets of foreign and domestic investors. At home, the Federal Reserve had pumped up the money supply by almost 30 per cent over the preceding two years—by 6 per cent alone in December, 1986—to prevent the US economy stalling. Abroad, huge US trade deficits ensured that foreigners, particularly the Japanese, had dollars galore to invest.

Stable inflation rates made for unexciting bond, real estate and precious metals markets. Almost overnight, equities were seen to be the only game in town. The higher they rose, the more the prophecy became self-fulfilling.

Like sharks tasting blood, investors indulged in a feeding frenzy, indiscriminately snapping up shares. The Japanese, for example, stepped up their net purchases of US equities to an annual rate of \$20bn, four times their purchases in 1986. Domestic investors were equally eager.

A few obstinate bears saw a clutch of reasons why share prices should fall rather than rise. Mr John Mendelson, Dean Witter's chief market analyst, stacked up a pile of negative factors including interest rates which he considered were already too high.

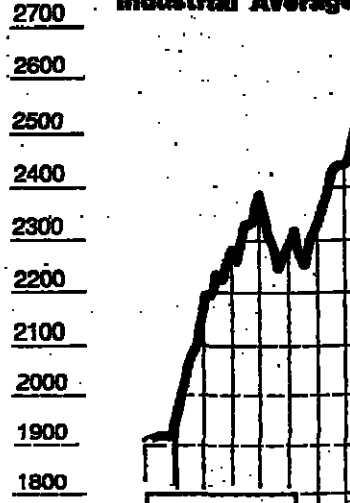
But the nay-sayers were derisively dismissed for trying to fight the tape. The power of positive thinking prevailed. “When the time comes for stocks to rise, no amount of bearish fundamentals will keep them down,” said Mr Robert James, editor of *Timers Digest* which tracks the forecasting performance of market newsletters. The Dow Jones Industrial Average burst through the 2,000-level in the first week of the New Year and charged on, sweeping past 3,000-point markers with monotonous regularity. At the end of the first quarter it was up 21 per cent, mostly in the first month, with broader market measures showing equally robust growth.

Disturbingly though, blue chips were out-performed by the over-the-counter stocks, the motley crew of companies at the bottom of the investment pecking order. Investors were already having to cast their nets wide to find good buys in the pricey markets.

The Standard & Poor's 500 stocks had zoomed to a price/earnings ratio of 19 and slumped to a dividend yield of 2.8 per cent at the quarter's end.

A host of new theories were formulated and new-found respectability was accorded to old ones to rationalise these price levels. US stocks were cheap relative to Japanese, buy-backs and takeovers had shrunk the supply of equities, corporate earnings were poised to leap and restructuring and buy-outs guaranteed huge profits for shareholders.

Dow Jones Industrial Average

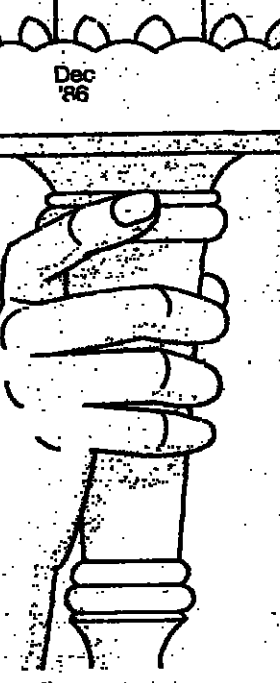
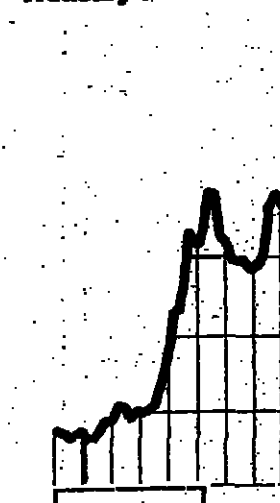


The keystone of this arch analysis was the “weight of money” theory. Stripped of its pretensions, it said no matter how high a price you paid for a stock, there was always someone with lots of cash or credit, probably a Japanese housewife, who would beg to buy it from you for more.

Complacent investors shrugged aside more fundamental considerations. Like heart-attack victims who ignore the first palpitations, they turned up the music and continued the party until the market was stricken in October's crash.

Common elements ran through the tremors of April, August, September and early October. Recurring bouts of pessimism over the dismal US trade performance triggered drops in the dollar, often with the encouragement of the Reagan Administration. Fears that foreign investors would flee from securities denominated in such a parous currency periodically pushed bond prices over the edge in an “Acapulco cliff dive,” as traders described the credit market routs. Stocks staggered but recovered each time, propped up by the investors' undented

US 30-year Treasury Bond Yield



bullish mood. The time-tested maxim that rising interest rates are death to stocks was explained away as an old wives' tale in this brave new investment era. Even the most outlandish optimistic forecasts gained credibility as equities survived each test with an apparently inexhaustible ability to absorb bad news.

The mantle of “the man who moves markets” passed to Mr Robert Prechter, who cheerily forecast that the Dow would surge to 3,000 on a floodtide of investor optimism. His forecasts were based entirely on the Elliott wave theory, the ultimate divorce of market performance from economic fundamentals. It had been devised by a Californian accountant who decided, after losing all his money in the Crash of '29, that markets were driven solely by predictable waves of investor sentiment.

Equity levitation lasted through the summer with investors comforted, for example, by calculations that \$17.5bn of leveraged buy-outs funds would be gobbling up \$150bn of stock.

The froth hit the fan in June when a Cincinnati stock ana-

about currencies and interest rates which had lain around the markets all year. Nothing was radically different.

“When the tulip boom broke in 1636, did people in the Netherlands say they shouldn't have changed the discount rate?” asked Mr Warren Buffett, the Omaha investor who saw his \$700m investment in Salomon Inc halved a fortnight after he made it.

Markets blew off like a long-jammed safety valve. Nothing had prepared Wall Street for the near cataclysmic interplay of new forms of financial instruments and trading techniques. The effect was devastating financially and psychologically as the Dow industrials surrendered more than their year's gains in a matter of hours on Black Monday, October 19.

More shares were traded on the New York Stock Exchange that day than in the whole of 1960. High technology ensured that the quake carried instantly to interdependent markets around the world. Everyone was rattled.

If bursting bubble had brought the markets within moments of a “financial meltdown,” in the memorable words of Mr John Phelan, chairman of the New York Stock Exchange, how would they respond to continuing economic and political crisis? Very poorly, it seemed. Hence the pressures on governments and securities industries for far-reaching changes in how markets operate.

Wall Street began to feel the pain of adjustment as it tried to pick up the pieces. Firms cut thousands of jobs as they began to contend with the newly straitened times. New York City will lose 25,000 securities industries jobs plus another 35,000 dependent jobs over the next four years, according to Wharton Economics Forecasting Associates.

Those left on Wall Street are picking themselves up, dusting themselves off and irrepressibly starting to sell all over again.

Relax, goes the patter, this is a rerun of 1929, not 1928. The “correction” has teared up equities for a long period of rising prices just like 25 years ago.

Actually, there are a few minor problems with the parallel: notably growth is half as slow and inflation and interest rates twice as high now as they were then.

What of Mr Prechter? Well he apologised recently for misreading his waves. If only he had spotted that the last great surge had started in 1974 rather than 1982, he said he would have perfectly called the Dow's top at 2,700. But in the final analysis, he was essentially right: 1987 was the year hearts not minds ruled the markets. Psychology was all.

“Between 2,000 and 2,700 was probably all fluff,” says Mr Peter Bernstein, a market historian. “But everyone felt there was something more powerful going on than any of us understood.”

Carp before politics

When Gustav Husak, leader of the communist party of Czechoslovakia, stepped down last week Czechs hardly betted an eye-lid. Having been excluded from all political life for the past nineteen years, they simply shrugged when they saw the face of Milos Jakes, the new party leader, slashed across the front page of “Rude Pravo”, the Czech party daily.

Czechs had other things to think about as they walked through the streets of Prague carrying their buckets. For, as the Christmas approaches, central Europeans set out to buy their carp, the traditional Christmas feast.

Just behind Wenceslas Square the other morning, a burly man equipped with a big rubber apron, scales, a net, and a tank placed on the pavement, started business. Shoppers discussed the merits of the dozens of carp swimming in the tank and eventually chose their fish. With a scoop, the fish was thrown on to the scales, and then safely deposited in the buyer's bucket.

To make sure the carp is fresh for Christmas, Czechs fill up the household bath—and there the carp remains swimming around until Christmas Eve.

Censor's scissors

Meanwhile, Romanian newspaper editors will have little joy this Christmas. And it's not just the problem of acute food shortages and the lack of heating which is worrying them. They have to deal with new instructions on how to cover the 70th birthday of Nicolae Ceausescu, the Romanian president and communist party leader whose birthday falls on January 26.

While neighbouring Bulgaria recently issued a new decree banning unnecessary parades and official demonstrations to mark the birthdays of their leaders, the cult of the personality in Romania shows no signs of abating.

Newspaper editors have already been told what pictures to use, what biography to print,

and how much space should be devoted to Ceausescu.

To add to the pageantry, television programmes— which run for less than two hours per day—are to devote almost the entire bulletin to extolling the virtues of “the leader”, as he is called.

The main products are a range of wholesale and retail hampers packed with festive goodies. Johnson says that steady gains in turnover since the company went public five years ago have enabled it to win one-third of the British market today.

A few months ago he bought 80 per cent of another feature of Birkenhead's former glory, Transmere Rovers.

Thus we come to the bad news—the Rovers are now struggling near the foot of Division Four of the English Football League. Park Foods' winning season does not look like being commemorated at Prenton Park, where a recent crowd of 3,300 was still only 300 ahead of break-even.

Johnson's “gourmet” hampers of champagne and good food are often bought by companies—at £250 a time—to give to key customers or rewards to their salespeople. Rovers' supporters are wondering whether a judicious distribution of hampers among the players might be an incentive for them to score some goals.

Kessler bows out

At a sprightly 80 years of age David Kessler has decided to retire after the loss as chairman of the Jewish Chronicle, the British Jewish community's weekly paper.

He is handing over the chairmanship to his previous deputy, Ellis B. Kessler, a partner of Barons, Birk and senior partner of Nicholson Graham & Jones, the City solicitors.

Apart from his past achievements guiding the highly-succesful independent newspaper, Kessler has just had the satisfaction of being able to announce to shareholders a 39 per cent dividend for 1987, against last year's 22 per cent. Profits for the financial year were ahead at \$502,878 against \$264,850 on turnover of \$3,865,626.

Kessler leaves the paper in the hands of the Kessler Foundation, which he created three years ago to avert any possible takeover, and to ensure the paper's independence.

Tuffin's trail

Just in time to enjoy Christmas, Brighton-based accountant John Tuffin, has been able to lay down a task he has been shou-

Parisian lawyer and later sold to Edmund Stekel and Seymour Kraft, who were each fined \$50,000 at the Old Bailey in 1986 for fraud involving the bank. Ownership then passed to a former mayor of Twickenham, Frederick Edwards, who claimed to have sold the bank at Le Bourget airport in 1987—the year before it collapsed—to a Graham Heron.

Tuffin's main concern as liquidator was to show that Edwards still owned the bank. He won a case in Alderney described as “probably the longest and most intricate” the island had ever known, and then had to battle on in the Guernsey court and the British High Court.

The liquidation took him to Malta, where the Bank of Alderney had many of its depositors, and also to Gibraltar. Finally, Tuffin recovered over \$24,000 enough to pay 9p in the pound to all the surviving claimants who could be traced.

Words of comfort

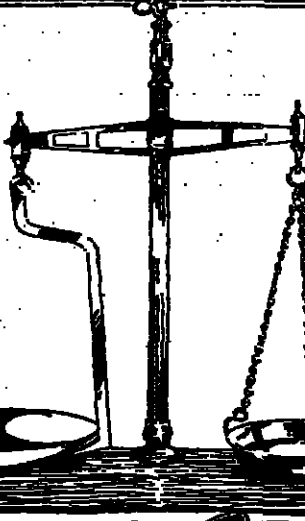
The judgments that flow from the High Court are mines of esoteric information. See, for example, Mr Justice Hirst's ruling this week in which Kleinwort Benson was held to be entitled to recover \$12m from the Malaysia Mining Corporation.

The case concerned a “letter of comfort”. This is a device known to businessmen—who do not always find it comforting. According to the judge, it is a letter written usually by a parent company, or even a government, to the lender giving comfort to the lender about a loan made to a subsidiary or a public entity.

They are, it seems, widely used in bank finance in Germany. Hirst offered the additional intelligence that businessmen have also been known to write a letter of patronage. Then there is the better-known gentlemen's agreement, which has been described as “an agreement which is not an agreement, made between two persons neither of whom is a gentleman, whereby each expects the other to be strictly bound without himself being bound at all.”

The Bank of Alderney was originally formed in 1986 by a

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Observer

Still room at the top for heroes

LORD HANSON barely needed to pause for thought. But Harry Solomon, chairman of fast-growing food company Hillsdown Holdings, needed a day's notice before responding. Bob Bauman, the American in charge of Beecham Group, did not feel qualified to answer as he has only been in the UK for about a year. Anthony Tennant, chief executive at drinks group Guinness, was too busy. The question which they and a randomly chosen group of leading British industrialists had been asked was simple enough: who was the business hero they most admired? Few, however, found it easy. "Bloody hell, that's a fast one," said Sir Christopher Hogg, chairman of textiles and chemicals group Courtaulds. In the event his response came quicker than most: his choice was George Davies, chief executive of retailer Next, whom

been a business hero he had not done so. He says Sir Christopher has also benefited from his affability. Personal liking was not always a factor in the respondents' decisions - some had never met the people they chose. But in most cases it did play a part. Cyril Stein, chairman of Ladbroke, the hotels and entertainment group, chose Hillsdown's Harry Solomon "because he is clever, works hard and has a delightful personality." Friendship was certainly influential for Lord Hanson, who selected Sir Ian MacGregor. They have plenty of common ground: both have wide interests in the US, both are staunch supporters of Conservative Party policies and both seem at ease with high public profiles. But whereas Lord Hanson, 65, heads one of Britain's 10

this year he suffered an unusual defeat at the hands of Pilkington, the glass group. Pilkington's ability to repel BTR helped to win its chairman, Sir Antony Pilkington, the nomination of Metal Box, the packaging and central heating company. Nonetheless Sir Owen accepted his reputation reasonably intact and he was nominated by Nigel Rudd, chairman of Williams Holdings, the industrial conglomerate, and by Richard Miles, managing director of the Steeltek brick company.

Mr Rudd praises the way in which BTR emerged from the crash with a strong balance sheet, but his admiration for Sir Owen goes further back. Like BTR, Mr Rudd and his partner Brian McGowan, Williams's managing director, have bought and built businesses which may not be in the most exciting sectors, but do have possibilities for strong growth in margins. Mr Rudd readily admits that he has drawn on Sir Owen's example in the way they have developed Williams. "We were always aware of what he had done with mature companies by cutting overheads and, sometimes, reducing volumes," he says.

Gerald Ratner, chairman of Ratners, the jeweller, also selected someone who has influenced the way he conducts business. His choice was Stanley Kalms, chairman of Dixons, the retailer. "These days too many shops are grey and understated," says Mr Ratner. "But when you walk into a Dixons shop you are invited in by the bright colours and you have to stop and look." Mr Kalms, he says, has a no-nonsense approach and knows everything that is going on in Dixons.

John Hardman, chairman-designate of supermarkets group Asda, also chose a man from his own sector. He selected Peter Barr, Hazzlewood Foods' chief executive, for building up a "brilliantly successful company with the minimum of fuss." George Davies, of Next, went outside retailing for his choice, perhaps unsurprisingly given that he is considered by many to be the most dynamic force in his field.

Like Allen Sheppard, chairman of Grand Metropolitan, Mr



Business heroes: Sir Christopher Hogg (left) and Sir Ian MacGregor

Davies's vote goes to Sir Colin Marshall, chief executive of British Airways. Mr Sheppard applauds Sir Colin for taking BA successfully from the public to the private sector. "British Airways is an entirely different animal from what it was when Sir Colin took over," he says. "He and Lord King (chairman) have revitalised the company. It is an airline which people want to fly."

Sir Colin is one of two businessmen who chose a non-British selection was Harold Geneen, the former head of ITT, whom he observed at close quarters while working in the late 1960s and early 1970s for car hire company Avis, then part of ITT.

Geneen had built an empire embracing everything from sliced bread to telecommunications. Kent Price, chief executive at Chloride, the batteries company, selected fellow American Jack Welch, chairman of General Electric, whom he says has brought about "tremendous cultural changes" at GE.

Of the other businessmen questioned, nominations were received from: Lord Delfont, chairman of First Leisure, the entertainment group, for Lord Forte, chairman of Trusthouse Forte; John Gunn, chairman of British & Commonwealth Holdings, financial services group, for Williams's Nigel Rudd; Sir David Plastow, managing

director of Vickers, for Sir Norman MacFarlane, Guinness's chairman; George Walker, chairman of leisure group Brent Walker, for Sir James Goldsmith, international financier; Sir Alistair Frame, RTZ's chairman, for Sir Peter Walters, chairman of British Petroleum; Sir Terence Conran, chairman of Storehouse, for John James, Laura Ashley's managing director; and Andrew Teare, managing director of building products company Rugby, for Sir Eric Fountain, chairman of Tarmac.

Perhaps the most original response came from Stanley Kalms, of Dixons, who chose Lord Carmichael, vice-chairman of merchant bank S.G. Warburg, financial advisor to Dixons. Kalms selected him because of "the quality of fees he charges... which are worth every million."

Strictly speaking the final nomination should be disallowed. But try telling Lord Forte and Sir Alan Dalton, chairman of English Chins Clays, that Mrs Thatcher does not count because she is not a businessman.

Lord Forte says she deserves the vote because of her part in restoring Britain to its place among the top business nations in Europe. Sir Alan insists the Prime Minister qualifies because "she is MD of GB PLC

The BA/BCal merger Monopolies Commission goes on trial

By David Sawers

FEW DECISIONS have damaged the reputation of the Monopolies and Mergers Commission as much as its approval of a merger between British Airways and British Caledonian, a deal finally accepted this week by the BCal board.

The Commission does not normally find respected experts saying that it has been taken in by the arguments of the predator, or the Financial Times, saying that it has come close to undermining the Ministerial guidelines which were supposed to influence the treatment of mergers.

The prime justification for the Monopolies Commission has been that it provides the quasi-judicial body that can interpret the "public interest" criterion adopted for judging the merits of mergers and monopolies, and possesses the independence that is needed to ensure acceptance of its decisions.

The British Airways/British Caledonian case has weakened the Commission's reputation for independence. It has also demonstrated some of the disadvantages of using a "public interest" criterion for such decisions, and of leaving the Commission to determine what constitutes the "public interest" in each case. It came close, in its decision on British Airways, to equating the "public interest" with BA's share of the world market.

This naive mercantilist approach is traditional among airlines, but an investigating agency that is required to seek out the public interest might be expected to have adopted some more sophisticated concept.

The Commission is required to take account of all matters which appear relevant in the particular circumstances of a case when deciding whether a merger or monopoly may be contrary to the public interest. But it is also enjoined to consider the effect on competition and on consumers, on the regional distribution of industry and on exports; and Lord Young, the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry, recently confirmed that he will follow the policy of his predecessor, Mr Norman Tebbit, by referring mergers to the Commission primarily because of

their potential effect on competition.

The Commission has thus been told to consider the effect of mergers on competition, but it can consider any other factor it likes in judging the "public interest". It has been given this discretion because governments have not had enough faith in the benefits of competition to make its preservation the specific objective of competition policy.

The discretion given to the Commission implies a faith in its abilities that has not been justified by recent experience. It is indeed doubtful whether any commission could handle so broad a remit effectively and consistently. The Monopolies Commission is a group of 30, of whom only the chairman is full time, who rarely work together, who treat each case individually and so do not set precedents, and who come from widely varying backgrounds. For so amorphous a group, its task must be impossible.

If it is accepted that competition usually improves economic efficiency and that competition policy should therefore be dedicated to maintaining competition wherever it is appropriate, the criteria for judging the merits of mergers and monopolies would simply be whether a merger would reduce competition; and if it did, whether there were offsetting benefits which outweighed the potential losses.

Such a change in criteria was proposed in the last published government review of competition policy, the Green Paper of 1978. Though the present guidelines stress competition as the main factor influencing references, the criteria the Monopolies Commission is supposed to follow have not formally been altered.

If the criteria were altered on these lines, the handling of cases would become simpler and more analytical. Questions like the scope for economies of scale or the cost of launching new products would be crucial and wider issues of "public interest" would not be permitted to intrude. Judgments should be more predictable. Businessmen considering a merger would know what they had to establish to obtain

approval.

Such a change would also reduce the justification for handing judgment to the Monopolies Commission. The supposed advantages of an independent and quasi-judicial body become even more dubious if decisions are primarily a matter of analysis. This analysis would have to be made by the professional staff of the Commission; its part-time members might be able to contribute if they had relevant experience, but the two days a week which they devote to the Commission (of which only one is usually spent at the Commission's offices) can hardly permit them to participate in serious - and hurried - studies.

If the government had the courage to adopt the recommendations of the 1978 Green Paper, it should also take the more drastic step of abolishing the Monopolies Commission. The task of judging mergers and monopolies could better be undertaken by the Office of Fair Trading which already advises the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry whether they should be referred to the Monopolies Commission.

The staff of the Commission could be transferred to the Office of Fair Trading, which would also need of two or three more deputy directors general who would supervise the investigations of mergers and monopolies as the full-time directors of each study. The Director General would still advise the Secretary of State whether such investigations should be made and the advice to the Secretary of State on the desirability of a merger or monopoly would formally come from the Director General, though he would be advised by the deputy director general.

Such a change would permit quicker and more professional investigations. If speed is a virtue in such enquiries, they should not be made by part-timers. The Monopolies Commission reflects the British admiration for the amateur approach: mergers and monopolies deserve professional and full-time study.

The author is an economic consultant.

Mike Smith goes in search of the businessman's businessman

he admires for having seen a gap in the clothes market and exploiting it.

Mr Davies has quite a following among industrialists and several mentioned him as second choice. But it was Sir Christopher Hogg, chairman of textiles and chemicals group Courtaulds, who emerged as the most admired businessman, receiving support from four of the 30 respondents to the FT's inquiry.

Next in line was Sir Ian MacGregor, former chairman of British Steel and British Coal, with three votes. He was followed by Lord Hanson, chairman of the big industrial group named after him, Sir Owen Green, chairman of conglomerate BTR, and Sir Colin Marshall, chief executive of British Airways, all nominated twice.

Sir Christopher's supporters - Sir Adrian Cadbury, chairman of Cadbury Schweppes, Robert Gunn, chairman of Boots, the chemist and retailer, Sir Hector Laing, chairman of United Biscuits, and Graham Day, chairman of Rover Group - admire him for the quiet but effective way he has pulled Courtaulds round.

"He had to take tough decisions in terms of numbers of people, but he did it in a humanitarian way," says Mr Gunn. "There might not have

largest companies, Sir Ian, who is 10 years older, no longer has the influence he once wielded. And that, Lord Hanson believes, is a pity.

"He is the businessman of the decade, head and shoulders above the rest. I am amazed by the depth of his knowledge and his ability to analyse what is needed to get things done."

Sir Ian was also backed by Sir Nigel Brookes, chairman of Trafalgar House, who admires his "vitality and public spiritedness"; and by Tony Clegg, chairman of Mountleigh, the property company, who refers to his "breadth of vision."

Lord Hanson received nominations from Martin Sorrell, head of the WPP marketing services group, and from Harry Solomon, who is impressed by

Sir Ian's takeover strategy. "It is different from the policy we have adopted at Hillsdown where we buy companies to keep, but you have to take your hat off to him. At Imperial, for example, the prices he got for the parts he did not want to keep were so high that Hanson could not lose with the parts it kept."

BTR's Sir Owen Green has also acquired a strong reputation for his takeover skills, but

Bevan rationed the NHS too

From Mr L.J. Bufton.
Sir, Joe Rogaly's analysis of the problems of funding the NHS (December 17) is fundamentally flawed.

"The infinity of demand" point is largely spurious, in that large numbers of people do not rush to use the NHS at the drop of a hat, but use the local chemist's shop instead. More significantly, all the signs are that they would prefer to pay more for the NHS through taxes. Much more.

The "vested interests" item is almost an insult to "doctors, nurses and health administrators." These people are professionally qualified and work to rigorous standards, seldom to whim or parochialism. The administrative costs of the NHS are in fact lower than their equivalents in the largely private health system in the US.

There is nothing new about "rationing" either. In post-war ravaged Britain Bevan had to ration the NHS, which is one reason why he fashioned it in a "mixed economy" model.

Even the exponential effects of rapid scientific and technological progress are hardly unique. Many managers in industry have long since had to justify to their corporate parent and shareholders the formulae to plan effectively to contend with the phenomenon.

In "comfortable Britain" the NHS can be funded reasonably adequately. The seeming watershed in the debate on financing has been artificially contrived by several years of draconian underfunding by HMG.

L.J. Bufton,
50 Kilmessan Road,
Birmingham

Divestment will help to end apartheid

From Mr Avansh Persaud.
Sir, In the Monday Page interview last week (December 14), the Governor of the South African Reserve Bank, Mr Gerhard

Letters to the Editor

Mistakes made in housing policies

From the Chairman, National House-Building Council.
Sir, Samuel Brittan says (December 14) that "we may at long last be in sight of a democracy where most people can look forward to substantial free property... unfortunately, in the case of housing inheritance it will have made least progress at the lower end of the income scale where it would be of most benefit."

How right he is. It is hugely unfortunate that all political parties based their housing policies between 1945 and 1979 on false assumptions that the best way, and the cheapest way, to help poorer people to have good houses was to build new houses for them to rent. Neither assumption was true.

As long ago as 1973 a Housing Research Foundation report pointed out that this kept poorer people in a poverty trap without any hope of acquiring a substantial asset. For the same amount of public money it would have been possible, using shared ownership schemes and other devices, to enable at least half of those who became council tenants to become owners.

Happily, all political parties have now seen the light, with varying degrees of clarity. The next step should be to introduce a system of grants for council tenants of below average income to enable some of them to buy in the open market. The houses which they then vacate would become immediately available for the most needy on waiting lists.

Of course we shall always want some houses to rent for those who have to move frequently, or who do not want to own. But helping poorer people to buy costs little more than

London's West End residential communities are beleaguered

From Councillor Paul Dimoldenberg.
Sir, Your special feature on Westminster misses the fundamental flaw in the Conservative Council's approach to creating "stable communities" (December 11).

It is obviously true that population decline over the past 10-15 years has been staggeringly high in areas of London: north and south of Oxford Street, north of Hyde Park, and in the Victoria Street area. The operation of the market leading to high rents, high property values and high service charges has forced many longstanding residents out of the West End.

In the main, they have been replaced by company and holiday lets, empty flats and a tiny minority who can afford international property prices. The massive drop in the Tory vote in these areas is the inevitable consequence of this economic process.

The real "stable communities" in Westminster are the council estates in Paddington, Marylebone and Pimlico, where the population has dropped far less than average. Yet it is in these stable communities that the Conservative council is leaving hundreds of flats empty in readiness for sale. The sons and daughters

helping them to rent, and provides an admirable way of spreading wealth among all sectors of society.

A.W. Hall,
55 Portland Place W1

It matters where the litigation is heard

From Mr John McDonagh.
Sir, The article by A.H. Hermann (December 14) highlighted the differences in attitudes to compensation claims between the US and the UK.

It now seems essential that claimants should be given some form of choice as to the location of class action litigation, because the choice of venue is of critical importance to the amount of compensation which may be awarded. This was obvious to the Indian government when they attempted to have the Union Carbide action heard in the US. Sir Alan was opposed by Union Carbide, and the multinational eventually won the day, with the result that the action was to be heard in India.

There is a precedent, since the crash of Turkish Airlines flight TK381 near Seme in 1974, for such actions to be heard in the US. In this instance the litigation, which concerned a Turkish aircraft flying from Paris to London carrying 346 people of more than 20 different nationalities, was heard in America courts because the manufacturer, McDonnell Douglas, was claimed to have supplied a defective product. Even though the accident happened outside the boundaries of the US, and attempts were made by the defendants to have the action heard outside the US, the case was eventually heard in Los Angeles. One point to bear in mind is that the compensation awarded to two sisters from London, for the loss of their parents, amounted to over \$1.5m.

Perhaps if similar awards became the custom in UK courts, more care might be taken by firms with regard to their products and services.

John McDonagh,
Department of Management Studies,
Scottish College of Textiles,
Netherdale,
Glasgow

New Issue

January 15, 1988

ENTE FERROVIE DELLO STATO

DM 500,000,000

5 3/4% Bearer Bonds of 1988/1993

unconditionally and irrevocably guaranteed by

The Republic of Italy

Bayerische Vereinsbank

Aktiengesellschaft

Commerzbank

Aktiengesellschaft

Banco di Roma

Morgan Guaranty GmbH

Shearson Lehman Brothers A.G.

Bankhaus

Banca Manusardi & C.

Crédit Commercial de France

Deutsche Bank

Aktiengesellschaft

Dresdner Bank

Aktiengesellschaft

Istituto Bancario San Paolo di Torino

Morgan Stanley GmbH

Schweizerische Bankgesellschaft

(Deutschland) AG

Banca Nazionale delle Comunicazioni

Bank of Tokyo (Deutschland)

Aktiengesellschaft

Baring Brothers & Co.

Limited

BHF-Bank

Daiwa Europe

(Deutschland) GmbH

Euromobiliare

Industriebank von Japan

(Deutschland) AG

Kreditbank International Group

Nomura Europe Group

Westdeutsche Landesbank

Girozentrale

Yamaichi International

(Deutschland) GmbH

Banca Nazionale del Lavoro

Banco di Napoli

Banca Commerciale Italiana

Banco di Sicilia

EC reaches accord on plan to end steel quotas

By William Dawkins in Brussels

EUROPEAN Community Industry Ministers last night reached a breakthrough accord to phase out all steel output controls over the next six months to three years.

Concessions both by the European Commission and by the big steelmaking countries at a key meeting in Brussels allowed member states to settle on a timetable for dismantling the production quotas which have helped prop up steel prices since 1980.

They accepted a slightly softened version of the Commission's plans for liberalising the steel market, an event which is expected to hit prices for the 60 per cent of EC steel output now governed by quotas. Yesterday's accord will keep quotas going for longer than Britain, the Netherlands, most steel consumers and the more efficient producers would have liked, but at least sets a firm timetable for a free market, thereby ending more than a year of uncertainty.

"We can live with an extension of quotas so long as countries are at least tackling the closures required to get rid of surplus capacity across Europe," said Mr Kenneth Clarke, UK Trade and Industry Minister. Britain would be offering no closures and would expect the required restructuring to come from Germany, Italy, France and Belgium.

Quotas for merchant bar and wire rod will expire on January 1, followed - in the absence of promises of major closures - by hot rolled coil, heavy plate and heavy sections on July 1. The Commission will extend quotas for heavy plate and sections until the end of 1990 if industry comes forward with binding promises to cut three-quarters of overcapacity in those products by next June 10.

It will also consider extending quotas beyond next July 1 for hot rolled coil, rather than ending them automatically as originally planned. That would also be conditional on guarantees from the industry by next June to shut 7.5m tonnes out of the 11.1m tonnes of overcapacity that the Commission's latest estimates show in that sector.

Hot rolled coil includes the largest and most politically sensitive chunk of steelmaking overcapacity, based in a handful of very large publicly owned plants. The Commission's offer to consider the option of extending quotas for hot rolled coil beyond next summer was the key to winning the support of West Germany, France and Italy, which were keen to delay a return to a free steel market.

Britain and the Netherlands also lent the Commission their support yesterday, having previously urged an immediate end to output controls.

Mr Clarke denied that the accord was a setback for British Steel, which has been complaining that its production has been hampered by quotas. British Steel would benefit from any accord that helped to cut overcapacity, he said.

One reason for member states' sudden flexibility was that failure to make a decision by the end of the year would have led to the expiry of the entire quota system on January 1. Mr Karl Heinz Narjes, director of the Commission, said confidential bilateral meetings between the Commission, governments and steelmakers in recent weeks had produced promises to close 20.7m tonnes of overcapacity, a much larger share of the total 30m tonnes surplus than was being offered by the industry earlier.

However, that still falls well short of the Commission's criteria for extending quotas beyond next June, especially for hot rolled coil. Then the industry has promised between a quarter and just over half of the latest estimate of 11.1m tonnes of surplus production potential in the sector. The huge margin of error is because of political uncertainties in Belgium, in the process of forming a new government, France, facing presidential elections next spring, and the UK, where British Steel is about to be privatised.

The Commission has exacted promises from the industry to shut just over half of the 5.9m tonnes overcapacity in heavy plate and 61 per cent of the 3.7m tonnes surplus capacity in heavy sections.

Zimbabwe merger brings one-party rule closer

BY OUR FOREIGN STAFF
MR ROBERT MUGABE, Prime Minister of Zimbabwe, and opposition leader Mr Joshua Nkomo, after more than two years of negotiations, yesterday signed an agreement to merge their two political parties, paving the way for a one-party state.

"The nation must feel jubilant at this moment, at this act which has brought us together," said Mr Mugabe after the signing of the accord in the capital, Harare.

"We are one."

Mr Nkomo, leader of the Zimbabwe African People's Union, which draws most of its support from the minority Ndebele population, was more cautious. "It is the beginning of unity, for unity is not just the signing of documents. Unity is what follows."

Some supporters of Mr Nkomo are opposed to union with Mr Mugabe's ruling Zimbabwe African National Union party and fear domination by the country's Shona majority. Recent killings of white farmers in the south-western province of Matabeleland have been linked to Ndebele dissatisfaction with the central Government.

The merger of the two parties will give Mr Mugabe all but one of the 140 seats in the two-tier parliament. Mr Mugabe is due to be installed as Zimbabwe's first executive president at the end of December. He will be the leader of the new party and Mr Nkomo is expected to become one of the two vice-presidents.

The agreement says "ZANU (PF) shall seek to establish a socialist state in Zimbabwe on the guidance of Marxist-Leninist principles."

The unity pact should be finally approved by congresses of the two parties, to be convened as soon as possible. The accord commits the two parties to act immediately to end the violence in Matabeleland.

The two fought a seven-year guerrilla war for Zimbabwe's independence under a loose alliance known as the "Patriotic Front" but split shortly before the country's first general elections in 1980. The agreement was signed in the presence of President Canan Banana after 10 meetings held since October 1985.

Last April, Mugabe terminated the unity talks saying they were serving no purpose. PF-ZAPU responded by reaffirming its commitment to unity cutting across tribe, region or race.

The ruling party frequently accused PF-ZAPU of involvement in the Matabeleland rebellion, a charge Nkomo has always denied.

Negotiations resumed last August after Nkomo had dropped several demands, including a new name for the merged party.

Hundreds of civilians, including at least 50 white farmers have died in the violence which began after Mr Mugabe sacked Mr Nkomo and his senior aides from a coalition cabinet set up after independence in 1980.



Zimbabwean Prime Minister Robert Mugabe (left) and opposition leader Joshua Nkomo embrace after signing a one-party Marxist-Leninist state agreement.

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Denmark, Ireland face legal action over border shopping

BY TIM DICKSON IN BRUSSELS
WITH AN appropriately seasonal sense of timing, the European Commission decided yesterday to take Ireland and Denmark to the European Court of Justice for imposing allegedly illegal limitations on cross-border shopping.

The problem arose earlier this year when both countries announced that the Community's duty and tax free allowances for drink, cigarettes and other goods up to a value of Ecu260 (\$441) in Ireland's case and Ecu280 in Denmark's case, would in future be restricted to "bona fide" travellers.

This group would be defined as those who spend 48 hours out of the Irish Republic, or 24 hours out of Denmark.

The measures were introduced to curtail so-called "fiscal" travellers who dart across the relevant borders on lightning shopping expeditions to take advantage of lower rates of value added tax and excise duty.

This practice has been particularly popular at Christmas in Newry and Belfast, Northern Ireland, where shops have been stuffed with bargain hunters on day excursions from the Republic of Ireland.

After citizens of the Irish Republic made several complaints to Brussels about their Government's rigorous enforcement of the rules, the commission began an investigation of the case and issued a so-called "Reasoned Opinion" in October. Officials believe that the new definition of "bona fide" traveller represents a fundamental challenge to the original 1969 Directive.

They also believe that such an interpretation contradicts efforts to create a barrier-free internal market, notably the far-reaching proposals tabled by the commission this year for greater harmonisation of VAT and excise duty rates.

The commission believes that the allowances had at the moment, notably the limitation of the privileges to "occasional" travellers and the monetary restrictions.

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When the going gets tough, the tough go shopping

By Janet Rush in New York

BELT-TIGHTENING? Not a bit of it. New Yorkers - who read daily post-crash predictions of restaurants going out of business, property prices collapsing, theatre tickets left at the box office and empty department stores - are going about the serious business of Christmas shopping as if they had never heard the phrase "cash effect."

It takes more than the obliteration of a trillion dollars of personal wealth to keep them away from the shops. This annual orgy of spending and giving is more than just a function of wealth - it is keeping up with the Joneses, entertainment and therapy.

You can't beat New York as a place to shop. Where else in the world does your corner deli (in this case, Beatty's Feast in Greenwich Village) offer fully-carpeted, three-tier cat condominiums for multiple feline residency? Or an air-conditioned bar?

More staid is Bergdorf Goodman, the gorgeous, old-fashioned store next door to the Plaza Hotel. Bergdorf Goodman is the sort of operation which would not be put out of its stride by a minor event like an unprecedented collapse on Wall Street. With great aplomb, it went ahead with its Luxe collection of Christian Lacroix dress for up to \$30,000 each - a week after the crash.

Bergdorf, like many other up-market stores in New York, is unashamedly adoring of anything British. What sells best in the store's Wall Street corner is a bottle of Blenheim Bouquet eau de toilette, imported by Penhaligon's of Covent Garden and retailing at \$51 for a 3.3-ounce bottle.

Well, it is busy in Bloomingdale's, the famous department store. Bloomingdale's, as it is affectionately known by New Yorkers, boasts two irresistible features.

One is the perfume gallery, where shoppers run as quickly as they can through two columns of girls in party frocks spraying them with scent. The other is the living tableaux - motionless shop assistants guarding cash registers.

If it weren't for the amazing tolerance of New Yorkers for rudeness in department stores, these resplendent guardians of Bloomingdale's inventory would cause the next US recession.

It is almost impossible to buy anything. God forbid that you try to talk them out of a pair of shoes. On the whole, New Yorkers observe this code. They have a saying: "When the going gets tough, the tough go shopping."

Witness the many anecdotes, told with relish by New Yorkers, of rudeness, and the unpleasantness of shopping. "It was amazing: I queued up for two hours at Macy's the other day." Giving Christmas presents is just that more so.

For New Yorkers, this is all in a day's shopping, but sometimes you get the feeling that even these acquisitive stalwarts would like a more genteel time.

One New Yorker in the home furnishings department of Bloomingdale's, overhearing an English woman complain she wouldn't be bullied by a shop assistant, admirably burst into Rude Britannia.

As nobody expects to find anything in stock - an audit of inventory in November disclosed the inexplicable disappearance of \$48m worth of merchandise - it is a delicious triumph when you manage to buy one of the items advertised at INSANE prices in screaming, full-page newspaper ads.

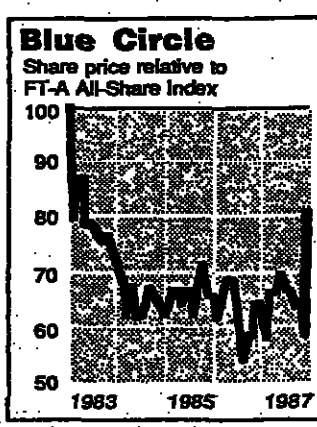
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THE LEX COLUMN

Japan knocks on an open door



Of course the raider's apparent misjudgment may have more to do with Blue Circle itself. The belief that the company has moved too quickly from defence to attack, and has lumbered itself with an earnings drag through buying relatively highly rated companies, may have contributed to its recent unpopularity. But when fund managers are invited to consider the long-term value of the company, such immediate earnings dilution becomes rather less significant. Most analysts now put the fundamental value of the shares at well over \$5. In the event of a bid, Blue Circle will no doubt boast about its property portfolio and the Armitage Shanks brand must have a value not apparent in the balance sheet. Against that, of course, an outsider could ruthlessly close unprofitable cement plants and create a cement shortage. The benefit of Blue Circle shareholders.

Share price relative to FT-A1 All-Share Index
100
90
80
70
60
50
1983 1985 1987

on capital adequacy policies for international banks, as the most important reason why it is prepared to continue to adopt an open attitude to Japanese entry into the more sensitive areas of the US financial markets. It also noted the progress which has been made in allowing foreign firms to join the Tokyo Stock Exchange and the growing foreign access to the Japanese Government bond market. In the UK, the Bank of England does not have to explain its attitudes as publicly as the New York Fed but judging by tell tale signs, such as last week's indication that Yamaichi and Nikko would receive UK banking licences, it seems only a matter of time before Nomura joins the UK gilt-edged market.

Blue Circle

Blue Circle's contrasting, and not unpleasant, experiences with "dawn raids" over the past three weeks offers another promising indicator of renewed market confidence. At the beginning of the month it took Blue Circle two days to snap up most of the 8m shares in Birmid Qualcast it was then seeking. But whoever tried to give the UK cement group a taste of its own medicine yesterday ended up looking badly in need of lessons in cheap takeover tactics from the Kuwait Investment Office. Instead of grasping the cash with relief, the market makers and fund-managers initially pushed the Blue Circle price 30p over the offer of a \$1.15p premium to Monday's price. It remains to be seen if this really is the end of the "dawn raid" phase, but whether or not investors share the industrialists' perception of the good value available at present prices at least they have the confidence to bluff it out against the corporate sector.

BP/Britoil

From BP's viewpoint, the advance of the Kuwaitis must be getting like one of those slow-motion nightmares. Just over a sixth of the company has now disappeared down the KIO's gullet, and the UK Government looks on unmoved - which must be particularly galling in view of the Government's opposition to BP itself making a nourishing snack of Britoil.

With its stake at just over 1bn BP new, Kuwait now has almost half the entire issue. Even for the KIO, the sums are starting to look formidable: over £700m invested already, and a further £2.1bn due in further instalments if the shares are held for another 16 months. The \$80m net dividend due in May will be a consolation, but the worry must be that if Kuwait does not eventually want to put close on \$3bn into a single investment it may sell the stake on to somebody else.

Britoil, meanwhile, was still faced yesterday with a sudden death play-off. The market's nerve started to crack as it became plain that the Takeover Panel was not going to make a quick decision, and the shares slipped back to an 10 per cent below the BP offer, with its stake up to 19.7 per cent, was meanwhile lying low. Even so, turnover in BP and Britoil made up 28 per cent of the market total yesterday - the same proportion as Monday, both days having been unusually busy post-crash standards. The market is going to miss it when the oil sector quietsens down.

World Weather

Area	Temp	Wind	Cloud	Precip
UK	12-15	10-15	Partly	0.0
France	10-14	10-15	Partly	0.0
Germany	11-14	10-15	Partly	0.0
Italy	13-16	10-15	Partly	0.0
Spain	14-17	10-15	Partly	0.0
Portugal	13-16	10-15	Partly	0.0
Belgium	11-14	10-15	Partly	0.0
Netherlands	11-14	10-15	Partly	0.0
Sweden	10-13	10-15	Partly	0.0
Norway	11-14	10-15	Partly	0.0
Denmark	11-14	10-15	Partly	0.0
Poland	10-13	10-15	Partly	0.0
Czech	11-14	10-15	Partly	0.0
Slovak	11-14	10-15	Partly	0.0
Hungary	12-15	10-15	Partly	0.0
Austria	11-14	10-15	Partly	0.0
Switzerland	11-14	10-15	Partly	0.0
Germany	11-14	10-15	Partly	0.0
France	10-13	10-15	Partly	0.0
Italy	12-15	10-15	Partly	0.0
Spain	13-16	10-15	Partly	0.0
Portugal	12-15	10-15	Partly	0.0
Belgium	11-14	10-15	Partly	0.0
Netherlands	11-14	10-15	Partly	0.0
Sweden	10-13	10-15	Partly	0.0
Norway	11-14	10-15	Partly	0.0
Denmark	11-14	10-15	Partly	0.0
Poland	10-13	10-15	Partly	0.0
Czech	11-14	10-15	Partly	0.0
Slovak	11-14	10-15	Partly	0.0
Hungary	12-15	10-15	Partly	0.0
Austria	11-14	10-15	Partly	0.0
Switzerland	11-14	10-15	Partly	0.0

OECD sees slowdown

Continued from Page 1

lower next year at 2½ per cent. German growth is expected to be ½ percentage point less at 1½ per cent, and Japanese growth 1½ percentage points faster at 3½ per cent.

The projections foresee a further slowdown in the OECD area in 1989, from 2½ per cent to 1½ per cent, with a slowdown in the US, in Germany, in Japan and in the OECD as a whole.

However, the OECD is on this occasion more than usually cautious about its projections, because of continuing uncertainty over the policies of governments and their impact on markets and confidence.

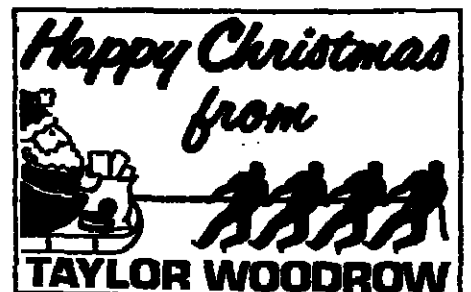
Mr David Henderson, head of economics, disclaimed any sense of alarmism. He made clear that some progress had been made, notably by the fiscal stimulus in Japan, by efforts to cut the budget deficit in the US, and by stimulatory measures in Germany.

One consequence of the falling off of economic growth rates is likely to be a further increase in unemployment, to a total for the OECD area of some 32m in the second half of 1989. In Europe the unemployment rate is expected to rise from 10½ per cent to 11½ per cent over the two years.

AEROSPACE ENGINEERING, ALAN PATRICK
ALEXANDER HOWDEN, ASHURST MORRIS
CRISP, 31, ALLIED IRISH, BAKER HARRIS
SAUNDERS, BANK OF SCOTLAND, BARINGS
BARCLAYS, BODDINGTONS, BUCKMASTER & MOORE, BZW, JAMES CAPEL, CAZENOVE
CHARTERHOUSE, CHASE MANHATTAN, CIN
CONTINENTAL ILLINOIS, COUNTY, COUTTS
DIBB LUPTON, FRERE CHOLMELEY, GOVETTS
FRESHFIELDS, GNI, GT, GOLDMAN SACHS
GOOCH & W
GREAT SOL
HOUSE OF
H & J QUICK
INDUSTRIE
HOARE 60
JOHN FOST
KLEINWOR
LLOYDS, L
MIDLAND,
GRENELL,
PAULS, PH
HAPPY CHRISTMAS
AND BEST
WISHES FROM
ROBSON RHODES
Chartered Accountants
sixteen offices in England
WAGSTAFF
SOUTHERN
OF FRASER
HARRISON
LL SAMUEL
ETT, ICAEW
ER, KALON
INKLATERS
IS, LONRHO
D, MORGAN
NAT WEST
PHILLIPS & DREW, PHILIP HARRIS, PICCADILLY RADIO
RADAMEC, THOMAS ROBINSON, ROYLES
S.G. WARBURG, SCHREIBER, HERBERT SMITH
SAVILLES, SHEPPARDS, SLAUGHTER & MAY
STEPHENSON HARWOOD, TSB, TEMPLETON
GALBRAITH & HANSBERGER, ROYAL BANK
OF SCOTLAND, UNITED SCIENTIFIC HOLDINGS
SUTCLIFFE SPEAKMAN, WILLIAM F. PRIOR
WELLMAN, MIM, WILLIAMS LEA, YORKSHIRE
BUILDING SOCIETY, YORKSHIRE CHEMICALS

SECTION II - COMPANIES AND MARKETS FINANCIAL TIMES

Wednesday December 23 1987



Blue Circle shares surge after failed London dawn raid

By CLAY HARRIS AND ANDREW TAYLOR IN LONDON

BLUE CIRCLE Industries, Britain's largest cement group, was the subject of an unsuccessful "dawn raid" in the London stock market yesterday as a mysterious buyer tried to pick up nearly 15 per cent of the group's shares and indicated it would try immediately to double that stake through a tender offer.

The name of the predator was not disclosed, although favoured candidates included Adelaide Steamship, the Australian investment company which built up a 9.8 per cent stake in Blue Circle late last year before selling it in several stages concluding in March.

Among British companies mentioned by London analysts as possible buyers were Hanson and BTR.

The raid was launched in the middle of Blue Circle's own hostile £217m (\$385m) cash takeover bid for Birmid Qualcast, the lawnmowers, boilers and cookers group, a bid which itself was preceded by a dawn raid earlier this month.

James Capel, the stockbroker, yesterday offered 450p for up to 38m Blue Circle shares, about 14.7 per cent of the total. If the target was achieved, Capel said, a tender offer would be launched

at the same price to lift its unnamed client's stake to 29.9 per cent.

However, Blue Circle's price soared from Monday's close of 333p and Capel found few sellers. The shares closed yesterday at 454p, a 121p rise on the day, to give Blue Circle a market capitalisation of \$1.17bn.

Only 17m Blue Circle shares changed hands in the market yesterday. Mr David Poole, Blue Circle managing director, said: "They were not very successful. It seems they got less than 1 per cent."

Adelaide Steamship yesterday declined to say whether it was involved in yesterday's raid or whether it had bought any Blue Circle shares since March.

Meanwhile, Holderbank, the Swiss-based company which is the world's largest cement group, flatly denied it was involved, as did Lafarge Coppee, the French building materials group and CSR International, the Australian building materials and natural resources company.

Blue Circle, which sells approaching 30m tonnes of cement a year, is the world's second largest cement manufacturer behind Holderbank.

See Page 14

WPP pays £32m for UK design group

By Fiona McEwan in London

WPP, the acquisitive UK marketing services group headed by Mr Martin Sorrell, yesterday created what it claims is "the largest retail design group in the world" with the takeover of Stewart McColl Associates, one of London's biggest design groups.

The WPP group, which earlier this year shook the advertising world with its contested takeover of US-based international agency J Walter Thompson for £250m, is paying up to £32.5m (\$55m) for its newest recruit.

Yesterday's deal - WPP's first acquisition - is earnings-related and spread over five years. It brings WPP's tally of design companies to six - four of them acquired this year - with activities spanning corporate identity, retail, graphics, product and packaging.

Sorrell has concentrated on below-the-line marketing services like design - unlike other groups which have focused largely on advertising - and has been rewarded by rapid growth.

The UK design market, estimated at \$1.7bn, is growing about 25 per cent a year, while the US market, worth about \$9.5bn, has an annual growth rate of more than 20 per cent.

The deal, subject to shareholder approval, is being funded with an initial payment of \$5m (£1m in cash and \$4.5m in WPP shares to be held for at least three years) with a further \$1m conditional on profit levels, which McColl believes will be reached.

Further earnings-related payments in cash and shares will occur over the next four years. The overall purchase price is based on a multiple of 10 times SMA's average post-tax profits for the three years ending November 1986.

Chris Sherwell reports on the creation of a new potent force among world gold producers

Bond plans move into the big time



Mr Alan Bond

A NEW international gold mining giant is due to be launched on the world's stock markets next year by Mr Alan Bond, the flamboyant Australian businessman. Its acronym, perhaps appropriately, will be BIG - for Bond International Gold.

The flotation will be the climax to a series of acquisitive moves begun in 1984 which have unfolded at breakneck speed over the past year. Its precise size is not yet known, but it is certain to run to hundreds of millions of dollars.

Its timing, too, is yet to be finalised. Before the October plunge in stock markets the target was February or March. That has been put back a month or two, but it is planned to be no later than June.

The company to be floated is the current St Joe Gold of the US, 90 per cent of which Mr Bond bought from Fluor in August for US\$500m.

The 49-year-old Perth businessman is seeking to buy out the remainder to take the company private. Its domicile will then be changed for tax reasons and it will be re-listed as Bond International Gold with listings in New York, London, Tokyo and Australia.

Mines controlled by the group are expected to be producing about 1.5m ounces of gold by 1989. This would carry it past Western Mining's production, and catapult it into

world class.

Mr Robert Pearce, managing director of Dalhousie Investments, Mr Bond's private family company, says the hope is to make the group as big as Bond International Gold of the UK. He adds: "It will take a few extra years."

Dalhousie lies at the heart of the Bond corporate empire. Not only does it control Mr Bond's gold interests, through a complex web of companies, but it also controls the better-known Bond Corporation, a

quoted company with brewing and television as its principal interests.

Dalhousie would be expected to retain at least half of Bond International Gold. But it remains unclear whether every element of his international gold empire would be included in the float.

St Joe itself has mining interests in the US and also in Chile, where its El Indio mine is the principal contributor to its overall output. Mr Bond aims to sell down these Chilean interests to 51 per cent, but will probably inject his existing Coliseum mine in California.

A move to take a big stake in Atlas Consolidated, the Philippines gold and copper producer, is not part of the equation. In any case, that involves Bond Corporation, through its Hong Kong arm.

Most of Mr Bond's Australian interests will also, on present assumptions, be transferred to Bond International Gold.

Dalhousie controls 58 per cent of Mid-East Minerals, which in turn holds 44 per cent of Metals Exploration and is bidding A\$2 a share for the remainder. So far it has secured about 83 per cent.

Metals Exploration has the controlling 38 per cent interest in North Kalgoorlie Mines (NKM), which in June secured control of Gold Mines of Kalgoorlie (GME) through a

A\$570m (US\$408.8m) takeover after buying an initial 19.9 per cent stake from Western Mining. At the time, NKM said it expected to sell down its interest in GME to 51 per cent.

NKM and GME between them have interests in some of the most important mines around the gold-mining centre of Kalgoorlie in Western Australia - among them Fimiston, Fimiston-Paringa, Mt. Charlott, Mt. Percy and Jubilee.

In the most recent development on this front, GME last week announced an A\$375m deal to obtain 52 per cent control of a company called Kalgoorlie Mining Associates. This was done through the purchase from Fimiston of the half-share in another company, Kalgoorlie Lake View, which GME did not already own.

The deal paves the way for the development of the much-vaunted "super pit" in Kalgoorlie, a massive open-cut development which will turn the town's fabled Golden Mile into a quarry some 3km long and 1km wide which is expected to yield about 800,000 ounces of gold a year.

The deal was the first significant gold-related development since the October share market collapse, which hit the overheated gold sector more sharply than any other.

The move confirmed that Mr Bond, who wheeled and dealt

with the best of them during the good times, retains his enthusiasm for gold and is continuing along his chosen path as though the crash never occurred.

This enthusiasm parallels a surge of interest in gold in Australia as a whole. Dubbed "the third gold rush" (the first two having come in the 1850s and at the turn of the century), it will push gold production this year to 100 tonnes - up from just 18 tonnes five years ago.

Higher bullion prices, especially when measured in terms of Australia's depreciated currency, the generous absence of corporate tax on gold mining companies, and technological improvements have all contributed to the remarkable trend.

Mr Bond, in advancing his own campaign, has so far spent close to A\$2bn. But because Dalhousie is a private company it is impossible to know the shape of his balance sheet.

Almost certainly he has built up large borrowings in Dalhousie. He has also resorted freely to rights issues in companies down the chain, angering some of his shareholders in the process.

Should Mr Bond pull it all off, however, he will end up with personal control of one of the world's largest gold mining companies.

National Semiconductor buoyed by record sales

By LOUISE KENOE IN SAN FRANCISCO

NATIONAL Semiconductor, the US semiconductor and computer manufacturer, reported its third consecutive profitable quarter for the period ending November, with record sales fuelled by its recent acquisition of Fairchild Semiconductor.

Sales for the second quarter were \$640m, compared with sales of \$456.8m for the same period last year. Net earnings were \$11.1m or 8 cents a share compared with a net loss of \$5.7m or 9 cents a share a year ago when the company was hit by an industry-wide decline in semiconductor demand.

Results for the second quarter include two months of sales and operating performance for Fairchild, which National acquired for \$122m in stock and warrants.

Earnings were boosted by a \$1.5m, or 1 cent a share, tax credit and by a \$90m gain from the sale of two buildings.

For the first half of fiscal 1988, sales were \$1.15bn, with net earnings of \$24.1m or 18 cents a share.

During the first half of fiscal 1987, sales were \$957.9m, with a net loss of \$7.1m or 18 cents a share.

Mazda Motor profits plunge

By OUR FINANCIAL STAFF

MAZDA MOTOR, the Japanese car and truck maker in which Ford of the US has a stake of almost 26 per cent, had its pre-tax profits halved in the year to October in spite of a decline in sales of just 1.5 per cent.

At a board meeting ahead of the results announcement yesterday, the company appointed Mr Norimasa Furuta, previously a long-serving official of the country's Ministry of International Trade and Industry, as its new president.

Mr Furuta, who joined Mazda in 1986, succeeds Mr Kenichi Yamamoto, who moves to the

more ceremonial post of chairman. Mr Moriaki Watanabe makes way there to become an advising director.

Taxable earnings for the parent company were ¥10.14bn (\$80m) compared with ¥20.34bn, on turnover which at ¥1,602bn was down from ¥1,826bn.

Mazda is maintaining the annual dividend at ¥7.50 a share in spite of net earnings per share which reached only ¥4.63 compared with a previous ¥5.55.

The company blamed the earnings decline largely on the company's heavy reliance on exports, which accounted for about 70 per cent of its overall

business in the latest year.

As in recent years, it said, the continued strength of the yen made Mazda vehicles less competitive in overseas markets by forcing up prices and restraining sales.

During the year, car sales totalled ¥941.3bn, an increase of 1.1 per cent, while commercial vehicle sales tumbled 11.6 per cent to ¥283.5bn. In volume terms, car sales gained 14.4 per cent to almost 1.08m vehicles, while commercial vehicle sales totalled 459,263 units, down 9.6 per cent.

Mazda made no projections for the current year.

Western Mining in bid

By OUR FINANCIAL STAFF

WESTERN MINING, the Australian gold and mineral producer, continued a push for North American assets yesterday with a US\$1.7m bid for Grandview Resources, a gold mining company which would become its third such purchase there in the last week.

Grandview, for which Western Mining is offering C\$9.55 a share, operates a mine in southern California.

Western Mining said its initial 3.5 per cent of Grandview would be augmented through an agreement already received from Grandview directors and four European financial institutions to sell their combined 21 per

cent holding. It is seeking at least 51 per cent in all.

On Monday, the Australian company agreed to pay C\$160m for Northgate Mines and said it would bid for the associated Norbeau Mines.

Last week it also offered A\$92m (US\$65.6m) for Seabright Resources.

● Bell Resources, Mr Robert Holmes a Court's energy investment vehicle, yesterday put a A\$56m figure on the loss it incurred from the sale on Monday of its remaining 5 per cent stake in Texaco of the US. This was before a 20 per cent minority interests, it added.

New Issue
This announcement appears as a matter of record only.
December 21, 1987

EAC

The East Asiatic Company Ltd. A/S

(A/S Det Østasiatiske Kompagni)
Copenhagen, Denmark

DM 150,000,000
5 7/8% Deutsche Mark Bearer Bonds of 1987/1992

Issue Price: 100%; Interest: 5 7/8% p.a., payable annually in arrears on December 21 - Final Maturity: December 21, 1992 - Denomination: DM 1,000 and DM 10,000 - Security: Negative Pledge Undertaking - Listing: Frankfurt Stock Exchange

BANK BRUSSEL LAMBERT N.V.	BANQUE PARIBAS CAPITAL MARKETS GMBH	BARING BROTHERS & CO., LIMITED
BAYERISCHE VEREINSBANK AKTIENGESELLSCHAFT	CREDIT LYONNAIS SA & CO (DEUTSCHLAND) OHG	CSFB-EFFECBANK
DEN DANSKE BANK	DRESNER BANK AKTIENGESELLSCHAFT	GENERALE BANK
ITCB INTERNATIONAL LIMITED	MANUFACTURERS HANOVER LIMITED	MORGAN STANLEY GMBH
NOMURA EUROPE GMBH	SCHWEIZERISCHER BANKVEREIN (DEUTSCHLAND) AG	SOCIETE GENERALE - ELSAISSCHE BANK & CO.
S.G. WARBURG SECURITIES	WESTDEUTSCHE LANDESBANK GROZENTRALE	YAMAICHI INTERNATIONAL (DEUTSCHLAND) GMBH
BANQUE INTERNATIONALE A LUXEMBOURG S.A.	BAYERISCHE LANDESBANK GROZENTRALE	BHF-BANK
COPENHAGEN HANDELSBANK A/S	DEN NORSKE CREDITBANK GROUP	PRIVATBANKEN A/S
SANWA INTERNATIONAL LIMITED		

SPAIN
The Financial Times proposes to publish this survey on MONDAY 18TH JANUARY 1988. For further information please contact: Mr Luis Andrade, Ponzano 72-2C, 28003 Madrid, Spain. Tel: 458 2778. Mr Robert Leitch, Financial Times, Bracken House, 10 Cannon Street, London EC4A 3DF. Tel: 01-248 8000.

Legal Notices
MEP-WILCO LIMITED
(IN RECEIVERSHIP)
John Mayer holds a Court Order, Prothonotary, High Court, London, and is appointed Administrator Receiver of MEP-WILCO LIMITED.
(Registered No. 1374119) by Barclays Bank PLC on 10 December 1987.

Citicorp Finance PLC
£150,000,000
Guaranteed Floating Rate Notes Due December 1997
Unconditionally Guaranteed by CITICORP
Notice is hereby given that the Rate of Interest has been fixed at 9.1% and that the interest payable on the relevant interest Payment Date, March 21, 1988 against Coupon No. 9 in respect of £10,000 nominal of the Notes will be £226.26.
December 22, 1987, London
By: Citibank, N.A. (CSSI Dept.), Agent Bank **CITIBANK**

MERCURY SELECTED TRUST (SICAV)
10 boulevard Roosevelt
Boite Postale 408
L-2014 Luxembourg

PAYMENT OF INTERIM DIVIDEND
Notice is hereby given to Shareholders that, following a resolution of Directors of the Company, interim dividends for the year 1987 of US\$1.50 per share for the Global Fund, and US\$0.40 per share for the Yen Global Bond Fund have been declared.
These dividends will be paid on the 30th December, 1987 to registered Shareholders of the respective Funds who are on the register at 22nd December, 1987.
These dividends will be paid from 30th December, 1987 to Bearer Shareholders of the respective Funds against presentation of Coupon No. 3, at any of the Company's Paying Agents including its Paying Agent in the United Kingdom:
S. G. WARBURG & CO. LTD.
Paying Agency
6th Floor
1 Finsbury Avenue
LONDON EC2M 2BA
from whom claim forms can be obtained. United Kingdom tax will be deducted from claims in the United Kingdom at the rate of 27 per cent. unless claims are accompanied by an affidavit.
Interim dividends will not be paid on the remaining Funds.
23rd December, 1987 **MERCURY SELECTED TRUST**

Eni International Bank Limited
U.S. \$200,000,000
Guaranteed Floating Rate Notes due 1993
Unconditionally and irrevocably guaranteed by **Ente Nazionale Idrocarburi**
In accordance with the terms and conditions of the Notes, the rate of interest for the interest period December 23, 1987 to March 23, 1988 has been fixed at 7 7/8% per annum. Interest payable on March 23, 1988 will be US\$200.64 per Note of US\$10,000.
Agent
Morgan Guaranty Trust Company of New York
London Branch

Scandinavian Finance B.V.
(Incorporated in the Netherlands with limited liability)
U.S.\$70,000,000
Floating Rate Serial Notes due December 1993
Guaranteed on a subordinated basis by **Scandinavian Bank Group plc**
(Incorporated in England with limited liability)
For the six months
23rd December, 1987 to 23rd June, 1988
In accordance with the provisions of the Notes, notice is hereby given that the rate of interest has been fixed at 8 1/4% per cent and that the interest payable on the relevant interest payment date, 23rd June, 1988 against Coupon No. 9 will be US\$409.84 per Note.
Agent Bank:
Morgan Guaranty Trust Company of New York
London

NOTICE OF REDEMPTION
CAMBRIAN & GENERAL SECURITIES p.l.c.
U.S.\$50,000,000
SECURED FLOATING RATE NOTES DUE 1992
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that pursuant to Condition 5(b) of the Notes Cambrian & General Securities p.l.c. has elected to redeem on January 29, 1988 (the "Redemption Date") all of its outstanding Floating Rate Notes due 1992 (the "Notes") at a redemption price equal to the principal amount thereof plus interest accrued to the Redemption Date. On and after the Redemption Date, interest on the Notes will cease to accrue.
The Notes should be presented and surrendered to the paying agents as shown on the Notes on the Redemption Date with all interest coupons maturing subsequent to said date.
Coupons due January 29, 1988 should be detached and presented for payment in the usual manner.
December 22, 1987
By: Citibank, N.A. (CSSI Dept.)
London Principal Paying Agent **CITIBANK**

Banca Nazionale dell'Agricoltura S.p.A.
(Incorporated with limited liability in the Republic of Italy)
London Branch
(to receive deposits only)
ECU 200,000,000
Floating Rate
Depositary Receipts
due 1993
Notice is hereby given that the rate of interest has been fixed at 7 7/8% for the interest period 21st December, 1987 to 21st June, 1988. The Interest Amount payable on 21st June, 1988 will be ECU 371.72 in respect of each receipt for ECU 10,000 and will be ECU 185.86 in respect of each receipt for ECU 5,000.
Agent Bank
27th December, 1987

THE REPUBLIC OF TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO
U.S.\$50,000,000
Floating Rate Notes due 1990
In accordance with the provisions of the Notes, notice is hereby given that the rate of interest for the next interest period has been fixed at 8 1/4% per annum. The Coupon Amount of US\$416.20 will be payable on 24th June 1988 against surrender of Coupon No.10.
Manufacturers Hanover Limited
22nd December, 1987

U.S. \$200,000,000
Hydro-Québec
Floating Rate Notes, Series FY, Due July 2002
Interest Period 21st July 1987 to 21st January 1988
Interest Amount per U.S.\$10,000 Note due 21st January 1988 U.S.\$401.09
Credit Suisse First Boston Limited
Agent Bank

INTERNATIONAL CAPITAL MARKETS & COMPANIES

Dollar bond prices slip as dealing volume slows

BY CLARE PEARSON

I SUPPOSE prices are a point easier for choice but I haven't written a ticket all day, said one dealer in Eurodollar bonds yesterday.

Market makers are taking seriously the relaxation by the Association of International Bond Dealers, the Eurobond secondary market body, which means they do not have to make prices to each other for the two-week Christmas and New Year period. Dealing was at a low ebb last week but has now ground to a halt.

One salesman said yesterday the determination of market makers to shut down early for Christmas had been unfortunate for Eurobond investors. It meant they had missed out on the benefits of the recent rally in US Treasury bonds.

Any investor buying Eurodollar bonds in size last week would have had great difficulty liquidating his holding this week, he said.

Where changed, Eurodollar bond prices were marked slightly easier to maintain yield relationships with US Treasury bonds, which trended lower in response to a higher oil price.

Euroyen bonds were also becalmed, although dealers noted higher-yielding Japanese government bonds were meeting strong demand from domestic Japanese investors.

When activity picks up in the New Year, dealers are expecting investors to extend maturities slightly to take advantage of the steepening yield curve.

They have bought mainly

BARCLAYS has issued a \$400m 30-year bond in the US domestic market, taking advantage of proposed changes in bank capital requirements which would allow subordinated fixed term bonds as primary capital.

The change is included in new guidelines issued by the Bank for International Settlements earlier this month, and is expected to be recognised by the Bank of England.

The 10% per cent bond, issued by Barclays North America Capital Corporation, was priced at \$9.358 to give a 10.57 per cent yield. This was 187 basis points higher than that on the 30-year US Treasury bond at the time of pricing in New York on Monday.

Barclays has the opportunity to borrow a further \$400m in the US domestic bond market over the next two years under a shelf registration filed last month.

In November, the bank raised \$250m in the Eurosterling market.

points, although some rose by nearly 1/4 point. A few dealers reported quite strong turnover but others said the market was subdued overall.

The Bundesbank announced a short, 15-day repurchase agreement at a rate of 3% per cent. Dealers expect the Bundesbank to replace most of the DM7.5bn it is draining from the market this week.

Details of a new federal government bond are due to be announced next Tuesday. It is expected to be a DM4bn 10-year bond with a coupon of 6% per cent.

In the D-Mark Eurobonds prices rose by about 20 basis points and a little buying interest from investors. A 6% per cent 10-year issue for the World Bank was fixed at 100.05, against a 99% issue price.

Turnover in the Swiss franc foreign bond market continued active. Prices ended the day narrowly mixed.

As expected, Wirschafts- und Privatbank announced a SF7100m 10-year 4% per cent bond for Schweizerische Vereinigte Bank Overseas Finance. It was bid in the grey market at less than its 100% issue price, and was said to be meeting good demand considering the time of year.

A SF200m 4% per cent 10-year bond for Prudential Finance, guaranteed by the UK insurance company and with a triple-A rating, traded for the first time. The par-priced bond opened at 99 1/2, but its last trade on the Zurich stock exchange was at 99 3/4.

Manny Hanny may cut staff by 10%

By Roderick Oram in New York

THE EXTENSIVE round of staff cuts at New York's financial institutions is deepening amid reports that Manufacturers Hanover, the country's sixth largest bank, is planning to fire nearly 10 per cent of its employees.

Although the bank holding company declined to comment officially, executives in Manny Hanny and its competitors said Mr John McGinnis, the company's chairman, has ordered management to identify 2,500 jobs which would be cut by March. It has already laid off 2,900 employees over the past year.

Banks are trying to cut their overheads to bolster their sagging profits in the wake of declining loan demand, huge write-offs of Third World debts and an uncertain economic outlook following the October's stock market crash.

Manny Hanny reported a \$1.16bn loss for the first nine months of this year, reflecting a \$1.7bn increase in loan-loss reserves for Brazilian debts. Efforts to improve its balance sheet so far this year have included a \$76m share repurchase and recovery of \$65m from its pension fund.

Some of the optimism the bank expressed during the autumn about a pick-up in earnings next year appears to have faded in recent months.

Major banks in New York and other cities which have recently announced staff cuts include Chase Manhattan, Chemical Bank, Citicorp, and Citicredit. Citicorp is planning a modest trimming of 1,000 from its 100,000 strong workforce but analysts are expecting it will make deeper cuts.

Wall Street firms have been at the forefront of lay-offs in the financial sector, with more than 10,000 cuts announced since the market crash. Analysts are expecting some banks to drop marginally profitable lines of business and also an accelerating trend towards banks charging for services such as automated teller machines which have traditionally been free.

NY admits three primary dealers

BY JANET BUSH IN NEW YORK

THREE NEW brokerage houses - one US, one British and one Japanese - were yesterday admitted to the US Treasury bond market to operate as primary dealers, bringing the total of market makers to 43.

The three new primary dealerships have been awarded to CRT Government Securities, a subsidiary of Chicago Research and Trading Group, Lloyds Government Securities, the securities trading arm of Lloyds Bank and Nikko Securities International, a subsidiary of Nikko Securities of Tokyo.

Earlier this year, Lloyds Bank decided to pull out of market-making in UK Government bonds, the first casualty of highly competitive conditions in the gilt-edged market after the

deregulation of the market in October, 1986.

Meanwhile, Brophy, Gestal, Knight & Co, an existing US-owned primary dealer, yesterday announced it had reached an agreement in principle for Japan's Sanwa Bank to take a substantial majority stake in the company. The take-over would become effective sometime early next year subject to the normal regulatory approval. Financial terms for the deal were not disclosed.

The Federal Bank of New York yesterday said another US-owned primary dealer was negotiating to be taken over by a Japanese bank. The two companies involved are believed to be Greenwich Capital Markets and

the Long-Term Credit Bank of Japan.

The New York Fed also announced yesterday E F Hutton would formally cease being a primary dealer in government securities on January 6, following its merger with Shearson Lehman which is also a primary dealer, leaving 42 market makers.

The admittance of three new primary dealers, including Nikko, comes just a week after the Tokyo Stock Exchange said it would admit 16 foreign institutions as members, including six US houses.

Mr Gerald Corrigan, President of the New York Fed, yesterday specifically linked its latest decisions to increased access for US houses to the Tokyo Stock

Exchange and the Japanese bond market. He also cited progress towards an internationally consistent approach for bank capital standards, reflected in an international agreement earlier this month.

Mr Corrigan said the increased international character of the primary dealer group reflected the growing importance of international investor capital flows in the market. In an apparent attempt to justify trust funds approach against criticisms in sections of Congress, Mr Corrigan added the Bank had some reservations about developing an undue reliance on concentration on foreign participation in the market. He added, however, that the Fed did not have strict limits in mind.

Worlds of Wonder files for Chapter 11 help

BY LOUISE KENNE IN SAN FRANCISCO

WORLDS OF WONDER, the financially-troubled California toy maker, has filed for protection from its creditors under Chapter 11 of the US bankruptcy code.

The filing will enable the company to continue operating its business while it tries to work out a reorganisation plan acceptable to suppliers and other creditors.

The once high-flying toy company, which boasted the fastest two-year growth of any US manufacturing start-up, has been under mounting pressure from creditor and shareholder suits since it announced heavy losses for the quarter ending September 30.

Only a year ago, WOW was

riding a wave of success as the fastest-growing toy company in the US, with first-year sales of \$93.1m. The company went public 18 months ago at \$12, and its stock price reached a high of \$25 in June 1986. Yesterday, however, WOW was trading at \$3.

The company's problems began earlier this year when sales of its best known toy, Teddy Ruxpin, a talking teddy bear slumped. Earlier this month, the company helped to establish a creditors committee and laid off almost half of its 400 workers.

Creditors include Hong Kong toy manufacturers and US semiconductor suppliers. The Chapter 11 filing lists assets of \$313.6m and liabilities of \$312m.

Canada to ease trust and loan sector rules

BY DAVID OWEN IN TORONTO

THE CANADIAN Government has pressed on with its reform of financial services industry regulations by releasing draft legislation designed to grant broader powers to domestic trust and loan companies.

The bill is the first of a series of new measures governing banks, insurance companies and consumer credit associations which are to be presented in draft form in coming months.

Under the proposals, trust and loan companies will be accorded the right to own (and be owned by) other financial institutions, including banks, insurance companies and investment dealers. In addition, they will be accorded full consumer lending powers.

Those with capital in excess of C\$25m (US\$19.1m), meanwhile, will also be permitted to make commercial loans with no portfolio limit. Currently, trust and loan companies in Canada must keep their total consumer and commercial loans to 7 per cent of assets.

Trust and loan companies will also be permitted to sell the products of other financial institutions through their own branch networks.

In a bid to avoid potential conflict of interest problems posed by the ownership of trust companies by commercial institutions and to protect consumers, the Government has imposed various ownership stipulations.

Skandia takes insurance stake

By Ole Vitanen in Helsinki

SKANDIA, Sweden's largest insurance group, is to acquire a minority share in Pohjola, Finland's biggest insurer, rescuing Pohjola's newly acquired 10 per cent holding in Skandia.

According to Mr Pentti Talo, Skandia chairman, the shares will probably be sold by Skandia-Salama, a fully owned Pohjola subsidiary which owns 26 per cent of the group's shares. Pohjola and Kansallis-Osake-Pankki (KOP), one of Finland's two leading banks, bought a total of 15.5 per cent of Skandia

Moody's threatens to lower Elf debt rating

BY GEORGE GRAHAM IN PARIS

MOODY'S, the US credit rating agency, has threatened to downgrade its evaluation of the French oil company Elf Aquitaine as a result of the bid by Sanofi, Elf's pharmaceutical subsidiary, for the bankrupt US drug company A.H. Robbins.

The agency said it had placed Elf's A1 debt rating as well as the Prime-1 rating on its commercial paper programme under review for a possible downgrade. It wants to look closely at the backing Elf will

have to give the bid by Sanofi, which it owns 60 per cent.

Details of the bid, which would have to provide for the \$2.45bn trust fund Robins must set up to meet the legal claims over its Dalkon Shield contraceptive device, are still being revealed.

Details of the bid, which will be submitted on December 28 alongside a rival offer from the Rorer group to the judge handling A.H. Robbins's bankruptcy, have not yet been revealed.

FT INTERNATIONAL BOND SERVICE

Listed are the latest international bonds for which there is an adequate secondary market.

US DOLLAR STRAIGHTS

Bond	Yield	Price	Change
Alcoa 7 1/2% 92	7.50	100.00	+0.05
Alcoa 8 1/2% 94	8.50	100.00	+0.05
Alcoa 9 1/2% 96	9.50	100.00	+0.05
Alcoa 10 1/2% 98	10.50	100.00	+0.05
Alcoa 11 1/2% 00	11.50	100.00	+0.05
Alcoa 12 1/2% 02	12.50	100.00	+0.05
Alcoa 13 1/2% 04	13.50	100.00	+0.05
Alcoa 14 1/2% 06	14.50	100.00	+0.05
Alcoa 15 1/2% 08	15.50	100.00	+0.05
Alcoa 16 1/2% 10	16.50	100.00	+0.05
Alcoa 17 1/2% 12	17.50	100.00	+0.05
Alcoa 18 1/2% 14	18.50	100.00	+0.05
Alcoa 19 1/2% 16	19.50	100.00	+0.05
Alcoa 20 1/2% 18	20.50	100.00	+0.05
Alcoa 21 1/2% 20	21.50	100.00	+0.05
Alcoa 22 1/2% 22	22.50	100.00	+0.05
Alcoa 23 1/2% 24	23.50	100.00	+0.05
Alcoa 24 1/2% 26	24.50	100.00	+0.05
Alcoa 25 1/2% 28	25.50	100.00	+0.05
Alcoa 26 1/2% 30	26.50	100.00	+0.05
Alcoa 27 1/2% 32	27.50	100.00	+0.05
Alcoa 28 1/2% 34	28.50	100.00	+0.05
Alcoa 29 1/2% 36	29.50	100.00	+0.05
Alcoa 30 1/2% 38	30.50	100.00	+0.05
Alcoa 31 1/2% 40	31.50	100.00	+0.05
Alcoa 32 1/2% 42	32.50	100.00	+0.05
Alcoa 33 1/2% 44	33.50	100.00	+0.05
Alcoa 34 1/2% 46	34.50	100.00	+0.05
Alcoa 35 1/2% 48	35.50	100.00	+0.05
Alcoa 36 1/2% 50	36.50	100.00	+0.05
Alcoa 37 1/2% 52	37.50	100.00	+0.05
Alcoa 38 1/2% 54	38.50	100.00	+0.05
Alcoa 39 1/2% 56	39.50	100.00	+0.05
Alcoa 40 1/2% 58	40.50	100.00	+0.05
Alcoa 41 1/2% 60	41.50	100.00	+0.05
Alcoa 42 1/2% 62	42.50	100.00	+0.05
Alcoa 43 1/2% 64	43.50	100.00	+0.05
Alcoa 44 1/2% 66	44.50	100.00	+0.05
Alcoa 45 1/2% 68	45.50	100.00	+0.05
Alcoa 46 1/2% 70	46.50	100.00	+0.05
Alcoa 47 1/2% 72	47.50	100.00	+0.05
Alcoa 48 1/2% 74	48.50	100.00	+0.05
Alcoa 49 1/2% 76	49.50	100.00	+0.05
Alcoa 50 1/2% 78	50.50	100.00	+0.05
Alcoa 51 1/2% 80	51.50	100.00	+0.05
Alcoa 52 1/2% 82	52.50	100.00	+0.05
Alcoa 53 1/2% 84	53.50	100.00	+0.05
Alcoa 54 1/2% 86	54.50	100.00	+0.05
Alcoa 55 1/2% 88	55.50	100.00	+0.05
Alcoa 56 1/2% 90	56.50	100.00	+0.05
Alcoa 57 1/2% 92	57.50	100.00	+0.05
Alcoa 58 1/2% 94	58.50	100.00	+0.05
Alcoa 59 1/2% 96	59.50	100.00	+0.05
Alcoa 60 1/2% 98	60.50	100.00	+0.05
Alcoa 61 1/2% 00	61.50	100.00	+0.05
Alcoa 62 1/2% 02	62.50	100.00	+0.05
Alcoa 63 1/2% 04	63.50	100.00	+0.05
Alcoa 64 1/2% 06	64.50	100.00	+0.05
Alcoa 65 1/2% 08	65.50	100.00	+0.05
Alcoa 66 1/2% 10	66.50	100.00	+0.05
Alcoa 67 1/2% 12	67.50	100.00	+0.05
Alcoa 68 1/2% 14	68.50	100.00	+0.05
Alcoa 69 1/2% 16	69.50	100.00	+0.05
Alcoa 70 1/2% 18	70.50	100.00	+0.05
Alcoa 71 1/2% 20	71.50	100.00	+0.05
Alcoa 72 1/2% 22	72.50	100.00	+0.05
Alcoa 73 1/2% 24	73.50	100.00	+0.05
Alcoa 74 1/2% 26	74.50	100.00	+0.05
Alcoa 75 1/2% 28	75.50	100.00	+0.05
Alcoa 76 1/2% 30	76.50	100.00	+0.05
Alcoa 77 1/2% 32	77.50	100.00	+0.05
Alcoa 78 1/2% 34	78.50	100.00	+0.05
Alcoa 79 1/2% 36	79.50	100.00	+0.05
Alcoa 80 1/2% 38	80.50	100.00	+0.05
Alcoa 81 1/2% 40	81.50	100.00	+0.05
Alcoa 82 1/2% 42	82.50	100.00	+0.05
Alcoa 83 1/2% 44	83.50	100.00	+0.05
Alcoa 84 1/2% 46	84.50	100.00	+0.05
Alcoa 85 1/2% 48	85.50	100.00	+0.05
Alcoa 86 1/2% 50	86.50	100.00	+0.05
Alcoa 87 1/2% 52	87.50	100.00	+0.05
Alcoa 88 1/2% 54	88.50	100.00	+0.05
Alcoa 89 1/2% 56	89.50	100.00	+0.05
Alcoa 90 1/2% 58	90.50	100.00	+0.05
Alcoa 91 1/2% 60	91.50	100.00	+0.05
Alcoa 92 1/2% 62	92.50	100.00	+0.05
Alcoa 93 1/2% 64	93.50	100.00	+0.05
Alcoa 94 1/2% 66	94.50	100.00	+0.05
Alcoa 95 1/2% 68	95.50	100.00	+0.05
Alcoa 96 1/2% 70	96.50	100.00	+0.05
Alcoa 97 1/2% 72	97.50	100.00	+0.05
Alcoa 98 1/2% 74	98.50	100.00	+0.05
Alcoa 99 1/2% 76	99.50	100.00	+0.05
Alcoa 100 1/2% 78	100.50	100.00	+0.05

Average price change: On day 0 on week +0.05

US DOLLAR STRAIGHTS (continued)

Rate of Tokyo 34 57				100	110.00	100	+0.00	3.13
Bank of America 7 02				200	99.00	99.00	+0.00	3.25
Deutsche Ind. 5 97				200	98.00	97.00	+0.00	4.00
E.I.S. 6 96				150	93.00	93.00	+0.00	6.99
E.I.S. 6 97				200	99.00	99.00	+0.00	6.99
E.I.S. 6 98				200	99.00	99.00	+0.00	6.99
E.I.S. 6 99				200	99.00	99.00	+0.00	6.99
E.I.S. 6 00				200	99.00	99.00	+0.00	6.99
E.I.S. 6 01				200	99.00	99.00	+0.00	6.99
E.I.S. 6 02				200	99.00	99.00	+0.00	6.99
E.I.S. 6 03				200	99.00	99.00	+0.00	6.99
E.I.S. 6 04				200	99.00	99.00	+0.00	6.99
E.I.S. 6 05				200	99.00	99.00	+0.00	6.99
E.I.S. 6 06				200	99.00	99.00	+0.00	6.99
E.I.S. 6 07				200	99.00	99.00	+0.00	6.99
E.I.S. 6 08				200	99.00	99.00	+0.00	6.99
E.I.S. 6 09				200	99.00	99.00	+0.00	6.99
E.I.S. 6 10				200	99.00	99.00	+0.00	6.99
E.I.S. 6 11				200	99.00	99.00	+0.00	6.99
E.I.S. 6 12				200	99.00	99.00	+0.00	6.99
E.I.S. 6 13				200	99.00	99.00	+0.00	6.99
E.I.S. 6 14				200	99.00	99.00	+0.00	6.99
E.I.S. 6 15				200	99.00	99.00	+0.00	6.99
E.I.S. 6 16				200	99.00	99.00	+0.00	6.99
E.I.S. 6 17				200	99.00	99.00	+0.00	6.99
E.I.S. 6 18				200	99.00	99.00	+0.00	6.99
E.I.S. 6 19				200	99.00	99.00	+0.00	6.99
E.I.S. 6 20				200	99.00	99.00	+0.00	6.99
E.I.S. 6 21				200	99.00	99.00	+0.00	6.99
E.I.S. 6 22				200	99.00	99.00	+0.00	6.99
E.I.S. 6 23				200	99.00	99.00	+0.00	6.99
E.I.S. 6 24				200	99.00	99.00	+0.00	6.99
E.I.S. 6 25				200	99.00	99.00	+0.00	6.99
E.I.S. 6 26				200	99.00	99.00	+0.00	6.99
E.I.S. 6 27				200	99.00	99.00	+0.00	6.99
E.I.S. 6 28				200	99.00	99.00	+0.00	6.99
E.I.S. 6 29				200	99.00	99.00	+0.00	6.99
E.I.S. 6 30				200	99.00	99.00	+0.00	6.99
E.I.S. 6 31				200	99.00	99.00	+0.00	6.99
E.I.S. 6 32				200	99.00	99.00	+0.00	6.99
E.I.S. 6 33				200	99.00	99.00	+0.00	6.99
E.I.S. 6 34				200	99.00	99.00	+0.00	6.99
E.I.S. 6 35				200	99.00	99.00	+0.00	6.99
E.I.S. 6 36				200	99.00	99.00	+0.00	6.99
E.I.S. 6 37				200	99.00	99.00	+0.00	6.99
E.I.S. 6 38				200	99.00	99.00	+0.00	6.99
E.I.S. 6 39				200	99.00	99.00	+0.00	6.99
E.I.S. 6 40				200	99.00	99.00	+0.00	6.99
E.I.S. 6 41				200	99.00	99.00	+0.00	6.99
E.I.S. 6 42				200	99.00	99.00	+0.00	6.99
E.I.S. 6 43				200	99.00	99.00	+0.00	6.99
E.I.S. 6 44				200	99.00	99.00	+0.00	6.99
E.I.S. 6 45				200	99.00	99.00	+0.00	6.99
E.I.S. 6 46				200	99.00	99.00	+0.00	6.99
E.I.S. 6 47				200	99.00	99.00	+0.00	6.99
E.I.S. 6 48				200	99.00	99.00	+0.00	6.99
E.I.S. 6 49				200	99.00	99.00	+0.00	6.99
E.I.S. 6 50				200	99.00	99.00	+0.00	6.99
E.I.S. 6 51				200	99.00	99.00	+0.00	6.99
E.I.S. 6 52				200	99.00	99.00	+0.00	6.99
E.I.S. 6 53				200	99.00	99.00	+0.00	6.99
E.I.S. 6 54				200	99.00	99.00	+0.00	6.99
E.I.S. 6 55				200	99.00	99.00	+0.00	6.99
E.I.S. 6 56				200	99.00	99.00	+0.00	6.99
E.I.S. 6 57				200	99.00	99.00	+0.00	6.99
E.I.S. 6 58				200	99.00	99.00	+0.00	6.99
E.I.S. 6 59				200	99.00	99.00	+0.00	6.99
E.I.S. 6 60				200	99.00	99.00	+0.00	6.99
E.I.S. 6 61				200	99.00	99.00	+0.00	6.99
E.I.S. 6 62				200	99.00	99.00	+0.00	6.99
E.I.S. 6 63				200	99.00	99.00	+0.00	6.99
E.I.S. 6 64				200	99.00	99.00	+0.00	6.99
E.I.S. 6 65				200	99.00	99.00	+0.00	6.99
E.I.S. 6 66				200	99.00	99.00	+0.00	6.99
E.I.S. 6 67				200	99.00	99.00	+0.00	6.99
E.I.S. 6 68				200	99.00	99.00	+0.00	6.99
E.I.S. 6 69				200	99.00	99.00	+0.00	6.99
E.I.S. 6 70				200	99.00	99.00	+0.00	6.99
E.I.S. 6 71				200	99.00	99.00	+0.00	6.99
E.I.S. 6 72				200	99.00	99.00	+0.00	6.99
E.I.S. 6 73				200	99.00	99.00	+0.00	6.99
E.I.S. 6 74				200	99.00	99.00	+0.00	6.99
E.I.S. 6 75				200	99.00	99.00	+0.00	6.99
E.I.S. 6 76				200	99.00	99.00	+0.00	6.99
E.I.S. 6 77				200	99.00	99.00	+0.00	6.99
E.I.S. 6 78				200	99.00	99.00	+0.00	6.99
E.I.S. 6 79				200	99.00	99.00	+0.00	6.99
E.I.S. 6 80				200	99.00	99.00	+0.00	6.99
E.I.S. 6 81				200	99.00	99.00	+0.00	6.99
E.I.S. 6 82				200	99.00	99.00	+0.00	6.99
E.I.S. 6 83				200	99.00	99.00	+0.00	6.99
E.I.S. 6 84				200	99.00	99.00	+0.00	6.99
E.I.S. 6 85				200	99.00	99.00	+0.00	6.99
E.I.S. 6 86				200	99.00	99.00	+0.00	6.99
E.I.S. 6 87				200	99.00	99.00	+0.00	6.99
E.I.S. 6 88				200	99.00	99.00	+0.00	6.99
E.I.S. 6 89				200	99.00	99.00	+0.00	6.99
E.I.S. 6 90				200	99.00	99.00	+0.00	6.99
E.I.S. 6 91				200	99.00	99.00	+0.00	6.99
E.I.S. 6 92				200	99.00	99.00	+0.00	6.99
E.I.S. 6 93				200	99.00	99.00	+0.00	6.99
E.I.S. 6 94				200	99.00	99.00	+0.00	6.99
E.I.S. 6 95				200	99.00	99.00	+0.00	6.99
E.I.S. 6 96				200	99.00	99.00	+0.00	6.99
E.I.S. 6 97				200	99.00	99.00	+0.00	6.99
E.I.S. 6 98				200	99.00	99.00	+0.00	6.99
E.I.S. 6 99				200	99.00	99.00	+0.00	6.99
E.I.S. 7 00				200	99.00	99.00	+0.00	6.99
E.I.S. 7 01				200	99.00	99.00	+0.00	6.99
E.I.S. 7 02				200	99.00	99.00	+0.00	6.99
E.I.S. 7 03				200	99.00	99.00	+0.00	6.99
E.I.S. 7 04				200	99.00	99.00	+0.00	6.99
E.I.S. 7 05				200	99.00	99.00	+0.00	6.99
E.I.S. 7 06				200	99.00	99.00	+0.00	6.99
E.I.S. 7 07				200	99.00	99.00	+0.00	6.99
E.I.S. 7 08				200	99.00	99.00	+0.00	6.99
E.I.S. 7 09				200	99.00	99.00	+0.00	6.99
E.I.S. 7 10				200	99.00	99.00	+0.00	6.99
E.I.S. 7 11				200	99.00	99.00	+0.00	6.99
E.I.S. 7 12				200	99.00	99.00	+0.00	6.99
E.I.S. 7 13				200	99.00	99.00	+0.00	6.99
E.I.S. 7 14				200	99.00	99.00	+0.00	6.99
E.I.S. 7 15				200	99.00	99.00	+0.00	6.99
E.I.S. 7 16				200	99.00	99.00	+0.00	6.99
E.I.S. 7 17				200	99.00	99.00	+0.00	6.99
E.I.S. 7 18				200	99.00	99.00	+0.00	6.99
E.I.S. 7 19				200	99.00	99.00	+0.00	6.99
E.I.S. 7 20				200	99.00	99.00	+0.00	6.99
E.I.S. 7 21				200	99.00	99.00	+0.00	6.99
E.I.S. 7 22				200	99.00	99.00	+0.00	6.99
E.I.S. 7 23				200	99.00	99.00	+0.00	6.99
E.I.S. 7 24				200	99.00	99.00	+0.00	6.99
E.I.S. 7 25				200	99.00	99.00	+0.00	6.99
E.I.S. 7 26				200	99.00	99.00	+0.00	6.99
E.I.S. 7 27				200	99.00	99.00	+0.00	6.99
E.I.S. 7 28				200	99.00	99.00	+0.00	6.99
E.I.S. 7 29				200	99.00	99.00	+0.00	6.99
E.I.S. 7 30				200	99.00	99.00	+0.00	6.99
E.I.S. 7 31				200	99.00	99.00	+0.00	6.99
E.I.S. 7 32				200	99.00	99.00	+0.00	6.99
E.I.S. 7 33				200	99.00	99.00	+0.00	6.99
E.I.S. 7 34				200	99.00	99.00	+0.00	6.99
E.I.S. 7 35				200	99.00	99.00	+0.00	6.99
E.I.S. 7 36				200	99.00	99.00	+0.00	6.99
E.I.S. 7 37				200	99.00	99.00	+0.00	6.99
E.I.S. 7 38				200	99.00	99.00	+0.00	6.99
E.I.S. 7 39				200	99.00	99.00	+0.00	6.99
E.I.S. 7 40				200	99.00	99.00	+0.00	6.99
E.I.S. 7 41				200	99.00	99.00	+0.00	6.99
E.I.S. 7 42				200	99.00	99.00	+0.00	6.99
E.I.S. 7 43				200	99.00	99.00	+0.00	6.99
E.I.S. 7 44				200	99.00	99.00	+0.00	6.99
E.I.S. 7 45				200	99.00	99.00	+0.00	6.99
E.I.S. 7 46				200	99.00	99.00	+0.00	6.99
E.I.S. 7 47				200	99.00	99.00	+0.00	6.99
E.I.S. 7 48				200	99.00	99.00	+0.00	6.99
E.I.S. 7 49				200	99.00	99.00	+0.00	6.99
E.I.S. 7 50				200	99.00	99.00	+0.00	6.99
E.I.S. 7 51				200	99.00	99.00	+0.00	6.99
E.I.S. 7 52				200	99.00	99.00	+0.00	6.99
E.I.S. 7 53				200	99.00	99.00	+0.00	6.99
E.I.S. 7 54				200	99.00	99.00	+0.00	6.99
E.I.S. 7 55				200	99.00	99.00	+0.00	6.99
E.I.S. 7 56				200	99.00	99.00	+0.00	6.99
E.I.S. 7 57				200	99.00	99.00	+0.00	6.99
E.I.S. 7 58				200	99.00	99.00	+0.00	6.99
E.I.S. 7 59				200	99.00	99.00	+0.00	6.99
E.I.S. 7 60				200	99.00	99.00	+0.00	6.99
E.I.S. 7 61				200	99.00	99.00	+0.00	6.99
E.I.S. 7 62				200	99.00	99.00	+0.00	6.99
E.I.S. 7 63				200	99.00	99.00	+0.00	6.99
E.I.S. 7 64				200	99.00	99.00	+0.00	6.99
E.I.S. 7 65				200	99.00	99.00	+0.00	6.99
E.I.S. 7 66				200	99.00	99.00	+0.00	6.99
E.I.S. 7 67				200	99.00	99.00	+0.00	6.99
E.I.S. 7 68				200	99.00	99.00	+0.00	6.99
E.I.S. 7 69				200	99.00	99.00	+0.00	6.99
E.I.S. 7 70				200	99.00	99.00	+0.00	6.99
E.I.S. 7 71				200	99.00	99.00	+0.00	6.99
E.I.S. 7 72				200	99.00	99.00	+0.00	6.99
E.I.S. 7 73				200	99.00	99.00	+0.00	6.99
E.I.S. 7 74				200	99.00	99.00	+0.00	6.99
E.I.S. 7 75				200	99.00	99.00	+0.00	6.99
E.I.S. 7 76				200	99.00	99.00	+0.00	6.99
E.I.S. 7 77				200	99.00	99.00	+0.00	

Ma Bell's Christmas gift to mankind

David Fishlock commemorates the 40th birthday of transistors, the most pervasive invention since the wheel

FOUR DECADES ago today, on December 23, 1947, three scientists on Murray Hill south of New York first demonstrated the "transistor effect", so named because it transferred a signal across an electrical resistor.

The transistor is probably the most pervasive invention since the wheel; an indispensable part of all aspects of life, at least in the developed world. The ubiquitous chip, the minuscule engine driven by the transistor, has created an industry with sales forecast at \$32bn this year.

The trio's employer, Bell Telephone Laboratories - then as now one of the world's great centres of engineering physics - knew full well what an important invention the transistor would prove to be. For it had set out in pursuit of the technology, knowing it was coming up against limits on reliability with the vacuum tube (thermionic valve), the basis of all electronics in those days.

Bell Labs was well expert in the large, complex systems from POTS, the plain old telephone system, to submarine detection and the embryonic electronic computer. All depended on the vacuum tube amplifier and Bell was aware that reliability of this amplifier would eventually limit the power of all such systems simply because at any one time too many valves would have "blown".

The rest of the world was slower to catch on to the significance of the "solid state" as the transistor became known. Despite publicity efforts which included a man-size model of a transistor, the world largely ignored the invention initially. At the labs, now renamed AT&T Bell Laboratories but still headquartered on Murray Hill, they joke wryly about how even the New York Times buried the story in a few brief sentences at the back of the paper.

Like Lee de Forest's triode (1906), the transistor is a valve which controls the flow of electrons. In principle, the transistor had clear advantages. It was a solid-state effect, needing no vacuum and no heater to get electrons flowing, indeed no discrete parts. Everything happened inside a chip of crystal.

John Bardeen, Walter Brattain and William Shockley, set by Bell Labs to find an alternative to the triode, demon-



Left to right: William Shockley, Walter Brattain and John Bardeen, in 1948, shortly after they invented the transistor

strated the transistor effect in a highly refined crystal of germanium, a gem-like "semiconductor" with properties midway between metals and insulators.

It was a fortuitous observation, for it began with a slight accident as Brattain prepared his experiment. As a result he altered conditions slightly and was astonished to find the current flowing the wrong way.

Very quickly his two collaborators were able to explain what was happening. In today's parlance, Brattain had contrived accidentally to inject "holes" into his germanium crystal - and hence to draw a flow of electrons (current) out.

It took the trio just days to make an amplifier and by December 29 they staged their first telephone demonstration of the transistor effect. Next day Brattain wrote in his lab notebook: "The circuit was actually spoken over and by switching the device in and out a distinct gain in speech level could be heard and seen on the scope presentation with no noticeable change in quality". Purity - precisely what and where the impurities were in the crystal - severely hampered development of the transistor. It was nearly four years

before Western Electric, then AT&T's manufacturing arm, got the transistor into production, and another year before the company began to use it in telephony.

Outside of communications, transistors first appeared in hearing aids in 1953 because AT&T granted Raytheon a royalty-free licence for this biomedical use. But the transistor hearing aids were three or four times as costly. The transistor itself cost \$9 - eight times the going rate for a valve.

The first transistor radio, the Regency, appeared in 1954, product of a joint venture between Texas Instruments and the IDEA Corporation. Commercially it was a failure - costing in today's money over \$200.

Slowly the electronics industry learned the characteristics of germanium, and the importance not only of purity but crystal perfection. Then silicon appeared to be less troublesome, and scientists set about characterising this much more commonplace substance. Today silicon towers over all other transistor materials and is without doubt the most exhaustively characterised engineering material the world has ever known.

In 1952, a British defence scientist, Geoffrey Dummer, with the (then) Royal Radar Establishment, in an address in Washington speculated on making entire electronic circuits from semiconducting crystals: "With the advent of the transistor and the work in semiconductors generally, it now seems possible to envisage electronic equipment in a solid block with no connecting wires."

Dummer foresaw layers of insulating, conducting, rectifying and amplifying materials, and electrical functions interconnected directly "by cutting out areas of the various layers."

Seven years later Jack Kilby of Texas Instruments secured a US patent on such a monolithic circuit, made of silicon. The world's first silicon chip - "Solid Circuit" - the company called it - made its debut in New York early in 1959. "It wasn't a sensation", Kilby recalled later. Its critics foresaw far more problems than advantages - for example, that silicon would be a poor compromise for some electrical functions such as resistance. The companies that then dominated the business for discrete electronic components - Westinghouse Electric and Syl-

vania, for instance - tended to ignore the silicon chip, leaving the field for upstarts such as Texas Instruments and Fairchild. These entrepreneurs developed the novel multi-disciplinary manufacturing technologies needed to mass-produce micro-electronics.

Bell Labs, however, continued to build upon its seminal invention. One assessment after the first 30 years gave its scientists credit for 12 of the 18 milestones in micro-electronics. They included the avalanche diode (1964), magnetic bubble memories (1967), charge-coupled devices (1969), and semiconductor lasers (1970).

In 1978, Bell Labs claimed its selectively-doped hetero-structure transistors set a world record by switching on and off in 5.8 pico-seconds (a pico-second is 0.001 billionth of a second).

Only last year it announced two more major inventions. One is the photonic switching chip, which may become the key component of an optical computer, switching light on and off as easily as a transistor switches electrons. The other is the "neural network", a silicon chip which mimics the way some brain cells retrieve information and solve problems.

Bell Labs has also made a transistor only a millionth of an inch across. What became of the original transistor trio? All three remained in research. They shared the Nobel Prize for physics in 1956. Brattain, after 38 years with Bell Labs, retired in 1967, and died in October of this year, aged 86.

British-born Shockley set up his own transistor research laboratory in 1965, and later became engrossed in more sociological studies as a Stanford University professor. John Bardeen became the only scientist ever to win two Nobel prizes in the same field of science when he won a second physics prize in 1972 for his theory of superconductivity.

Under company rules, all three had assigned their transistor patents to AT&T for \$1 apiece. In 1956, under an anti-trust consent decree, Ma Bell waived all further rights to her remarkable invention.

"Three degrees above zero," by Jeremy Bernstein, Scribner, 1984.
"The chip," by T.R. Reid, Simon and Schuster, 1984

WORTH WATCHING

Edited by Geoffrey Charlish

Heating elements go into print

A CHEAPER method of producing heating elements for industrial or consumer products, by printing them on a heat-resistant, paper-thin plastic sheet, has been developed by Neatfast of Henley-on-Thames in the UK.

The product uses an electrically conducting ink which is screen printed on to polyester film, allowing operation up to 100 deg C. The ink can be used to 150 deg C on a more heat resistant substrate.

Elements from postage stamp to wall poster size are feasible and can be designed to give temperature rises from a few degrees C upwards.

There are no shape limitations and heaters can be designed with varying track widths to give more heat in specific areas. The tracks are broad giving good heat dissipation and any damage they sustain is unlikely to break the circuit.

Plumbers quickly make the connection

JOHN GUEST of West Drayton, near London, has developed pipe fittings that allow plumbing connections to be made "in seconds," and without tools.

The pipes are simply pushed into each side of a special connecting collet (gripping ring) for a secure, leak-proof connection to be made immediately.

Disconnection of a pipe is just as easily made by pushing the inner member of the collet inwards and pulling the pipe out.

Toshiba focuses on Western conferences

TOSHIBA, the Japanese electronics group is set to attack the videoconference equipment market in the West with a new codec (coder-decoder) and office-studio camera and display systems.

The company claims that its new DT640 codec offers the widest range of digital transmission rates available, from 32,000 bits per second to 1.5 megabits (millions of bits) per second.

Thus, the codec can make the most of available digital telecommunication lines, using the low speeds where picture quality is not vital and the highest speeds when it is.

Codecs are devices which can remove "redundant" information from any of the 50 TV frames which are generated each second by a camera.

For example, any still object appearing in two consecutive frames would be ignored in the second, so that the bits needed to define it need not be sent again.

This reduces the bit rate, but at lower rates these techniques tend to "smear" movement. They also take time to perform, so that sound/vision synchronisation can suffer - a problem which Toshiba has overcome in the new codec by delaying the audio to match the video.

Dowty screens direct facsimiles

FACSIMILE TRANSMISSIONS can be made straight out of an IBM personal computer (XT/AT or compatible machine) into a telephone line, using a circuit board and software addition to the computer offered by Dowty Information Systems in the UK.

Called Microfax, the package will allow text and graphics to be sent without the need to print them and scan them in a conventional facsimile machine.

The Dowty development means that any material generated on the computer, from spreadsheets to word processing, can be sent immediately to any group three fax machine.

Conversely, material can be received and incorporated directly into the task at hand on the PC.

HepuOrth



Clay drainage. Anything else is unnatural.

Istel holds key to worldwide databank

NEARLY 1,000 databases around the world can be easily interrogated using a new on-line information service called Infosearch. This has been launched by Istel, the UK data network specialist of Redditch.

Many kinds of screen and keyboard hardware can be used, suitably equipped with phone line communications facilities. The start-up fee is £100 per user, and each gets the necessary manual and initial help on systems operation. After that, the cost is £10 per successful access.

The Infosearch system software takes care of all the command languages that the user would normally need to know in order to interrogate any specific database.

Philips has its eye on document storage

PHILIPS OF The Netherlands has fired a shot at Kodak, Agfa and other companies with microfilm interests, by offering its optical disc document storage system in a basic form at only \$69,000.

Companies that must keep replicas of original documents, instead of putting them on microfilm can scan them electronically and put the digital facsimile on to a Megadoc optical disc.

Any document can then be retrieved in a second or two. The alternative, with microfilm, is computerised retrieval (CAR), which is somewhat slower.

The new Megadoc system includes a document scanner, an image printer and an optical disc drive with associated computer. All but the printer will fit on or under an office desk.

Also provided is software to index and cross reference stored material.

CONTACTS: Neatfast: UK, 0491 681918.
John Guest: UK, 0985 440281. Toshiba: Tokyo, 457 2104. Dowty: UK, 0255 12810.
Infosearch: UK, 0527 64274. Philips Business Systems: UK, 0235 576118.

MANNESMANN

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- Mannesmann Automation Engineering & Construction
- Mannesmann Hardware & Electronics: instrumentation and process control
- Mannesmann Research Data processing, information and communications technology
- Mannesmann Drive Works: Plant and machine production
- Mannesmann Research: Consulting, development

UK COMPANY NEWS

Bond takes 7% stake in M & G

BY NIKKI TAIT

Bond Corporation, the Australian company headed by Mr Alan Bond, yesterday emerged as the holder of a near 7 per cent stake in M & G Group, Britain's largest unit trust company.

Yesterday, Bond's London office issued a firm "no comment" on the stake. However, Mr Paddy Linaker, M & G's managing director, said that he regarded the Australian interest as "a shrewd long-term investment". Bond currently holds 5.16m shares, or 6.82 per cent.

M&G said Mr Linaker, had not been in touch with Mr Bond over the holding. "But I would suggest that we are widely known to be

fiercely independent and wish to remain so," he continued. "Mr Bond is too practical an investor not to realise that."

The unit trust group has met Mr Bond in the past and Mr Linaker suggested that a meeting in London in the New Year might take place - but stressed that nothing had been planned.

M&G said that it has been aware of some stake-building "for a month or so" and had been pursuing the identity of some nominee names. Last Thursday, it was announced that Ensign Trust, an aggressive trust controlled by the Merchant Navy Officers Pension Fund, had sold

just over four per cent of M & G's equity at 280p - 44p above the previous day's closing price - thereby halving its stake. The identity of the purchaser was not disclosed.

M&G shares, which have slumped from a high of 461p ahead of the stockmarket crash to a low of 180p earlier this month, added a further 31p to 291p yesterday. At that price, the group is capitalised at over £220m.

The UK group is renowned for its staunch support for most incumbent managements during takeover bids. It has also been particularly critical of the wave

of financial conglomerates which arrived in the wake of Big Bang. Its own operations remain those of a pure fund management business and the group has made no attempt to link up with outside partners. It does, however, have a significant shareholder in the form of Eames Fairbank Charitable Trust, which controls 31 per cent.

Bond Corporation has also been a recent investor in another British company, the food and drinks group Allied-Lyons. Bond declared a holding of just over 5 per cent last week, but Allied said that it believed the stake to be benevolent.

Evered raises stake in Henderson

By Heather Farborough

Evered Holdings yesterday increased its stake in Henderson Group, industrial doors and security products company, by 8.5 per cent to 22.8 per cent.

The industrial holding company bought 1.9m Henderson shares through Robert Fleming in a market raid at prices up to 390p.

Evered, headed by the Abdullah brothers, also raised £30m cash from the sale of some of its subsidiary companies and property disposals, including some acquired earlier this year when it took over London & Northern.

The group has also arranged a syndicated £75m revolving credit facility, borrowing to be charged at 0.2 per cent above the LIBOR rate. The money is to be used to restructure existing borrowings.

The company declined to comment on the timing of these disposals, but said: "We had already planned to clean up the London & Northern situation."

It also declined to say whether the company was considering a full bid for Henderson. Evered bought 14.3 per cent of Henderson's shares in October 1986, and 1987, Henderson's performance is thought to be improving. The company is expected to report pre-tax profits of £4.4m this year, against £4.4m in 1986.

Since the takeover of London & Northern, Evered has concentrated on developing the acquisition's core businesses of quarrying and industrial and building products.

As part of yesterday's disposals, Evered agreed terms for a management buy-out of Reliant Services for £4.4m. It also agreed to sell its 75 per cent interest in Blackwell, earthmoving contractor, for £1.5m cash to Premier Line and Stone. North Electrical Services is buying Cland Hamlet, an electrical contractor, for £145,000.

Evered has also completed London & Northern's withdrawal from healthcare with the disposal of medical supplies Unidex (Far East) and of United Health Systems.

Contracts have been exchanged with Seville Gordon for the purchase of industrial and commercial properties, most of which came from London & Northern, for £11.5m cash.

MIM increases Drayton holding

Drayton Japan, the MIM-managed investment trust which New Jersey-based shareholder AJB Partners is attempting to pressure into discounting its shares, announced yesterday that it had received a further 853,000 ordinary shares in the trust. This takes its ordinary stake to just over 6m shares or 22.5 per cent of that class.

LLOYDS CHEMISTS has acquired three outlets in Gloucestershire, Staffordshire and Somerset for a cash total of £293,000, excluding stocks. Lloyds chain will now encompass 203 stores.

ALFABERIE is to purchase Tantis Microsystems, specialist in real-time data entry and deal capture systems used by the financial services industry. In the year to end-December 1986, Tantis achieved taxable profits of £100,000 on a turnover of £566,000.

KEF GROUP, in respect of the recent rights issue, has a total of 4,949,421 new ordinary (53.47 per cent of the issue) have been subscribed at 85p each. The balance has been re-allotted to the underwriters.

COMPANY NEWS IN BRIEF

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KIO increases stake in BP to more than 17%

BY RICHARD TOMKINS

THE KUWAIT INVESTMENT Office, London investment arm of the Kuwaiti Ministry of Finance, yesterday increased its stake in British Petroleum to a little more than 17 per cent and gave no indication that it was about to curtail its buying.

The KIO increased its stake through another raid on BP's newly-issued partly-paid stock. This saw a recorded volume of 180m shares, representing nearly a quarter of the volume done in all leading London stocks yesterday. The figure compared with a volume of just 8.5m in BP's fully-paid stock.

On Monday it was announced that Kuwait had built a 16.06 per

cent stake in Britain's biggest company. By the end of yesterday the KIO was believed to be holding a little more than 17m of the partly-paid shares, representing 17.67 per cent of BP's total issued equity.

The KIO has refused to set any public limit on the level at which it intends to stop buying BP's shares. Its only statement has been that it sees the stock as a good long-term investment.

It is understood that the KIO has received no indications from the British Government, either directly or indirectly, that its stake-building is unwelcome, and sees no reason for limiting its buying at any particular point

below 30 per cent, at which it would be compelled to bid.

Although the size of the KIO's stake in BP is thought to be a source of concern to the Government, it is also a benefit in that it relieves the Bank of England of its obligation to buy back unwanted BP partly-paid stock at 70p a share until January 6.

The KIO has already acquired nearly half the 2.2bn partly-paid shares in issue and has set an example to other institutional investors, some of whom are also thought to be buyers.

See Lex and Stock Market Report - P25

Leisuretime sale proposal defeated

BY CLAY HARRIS

DIRECTORS of Leisuretime International were yesterday planning a rear-guard action after shareholders voted to block the planned disposal of the company's Worldwide Dryers subsidiary.

The revolt was led by Braithwaite Group, the engineering company which owns 14.3 per cent of Leisuretime. Mr Andrew Fitton, Braithwaite chairman, said he would be pressing for management changes at Leisuretime.

The disposal of Worldwide, which rents warm-air hand dryers, was defeated on a show of

hands at yesterday's extraordinary general meeting. The company agreed earlier this month to sell Worldwide for £11m to initial, part of the BET international services group.

After the vote, Leisuretime delayed a poll of shareholders until January 7. With proxies, Braithwaite and its allies claim to speak for 52 per cent of shareholders.

Among the shareholders which supported Braithwaite were Curacao-based Quantum Fund and Beaverbrook Investments. Mr Tim Aitken, Leisuretime chairman, is a director of the

latter. He was not present at yesterday's meeting.

Late yesterday, Leisuretime was considering possible courses of action with its advisers at County NatWest.

It was studying proposals put forward by Braithwaite about the strategy needed to improve returns at Worldwide. Braithwaite is believed to see Leisuretime as a vehicle to create a broadly-based industrial services group.

Leisuretime is determined, however, not to pass effective control of the company to a group of shareholders without a

full takeover offer being made.

Mr Fitton described a bid for Leisuretime as a last resort. Braithwaite had built up its stake only because of Worldwide, which Leisuretime had regarded as its core business as recently as July. Before the BET was announced, Leisuretime had considered selling Worldwide to Braithwaite.

Despite losses, the business had encouraging growth prospects in an expanding market, he said. Earlier this month, Leisuretime estimated a pre-tax loss of up to £2.75m, largely attributable to Worldwide, for the year

Pericom tumbles to £610,000

BY FIONA THOMPSON

Pericom, the USM-quoted computer graphics terminals manufacturer, yesterday unveiled pre-tax profits slashed by two thirds to £510,000 for the 15 months to September 30, compared with £1.85m last year. Earnings per share fell from 14.1p to 2p and there is no final dividend.

"Obviously we are disappointed with the result," said Mr Ron Cragg, chairman. "It is so frustrating to feel that we are doing the right things but see the bottom fall out of prices."

In the past year Pericom has had to cut dramatically prices of all its manufactured products, some by as much as 50 per cent, to follow the lead of its main competitors, based in the US. The weakening of the dollar

enabled the US manufacturers to substantially reduce prices.

Exchange rate losses totalled \$224,000, all dollar related. In an attempt to alleviate US exchange rate difficulties, and reduce production costs, Pericom established a manufacturing subsidiary in Singapore in May this year. It will come fully on stream during 1988.

"To manufacture offshore is the solution," said Mr Cragg. "The cost of components is 25 to 30 per cent lower, there are labour savings, and Singapore has favourable trading relations with the US and EC, which means no duty to be paid on products going into the US."

Pericom is also expanding its maintenance and distribution

divisions. Boffin Computer Maintenance and Provector, the distribution subsidiary, currently jointly account for 40 per cent of group turnover, with manufacturing at 60 per cent. The company hopes to have an even split by the end of this financial year.

The downward pricing spiral has stalled in the last two months, said Mr Cragg. "Things have settled down, but we won't see a dramatic improvement until Singapore is fully on stream."

Turnover was virtually unchanged at \$14.76m, against \$16.64m last year. Tax took \$143,000 (£796,000). With the omission of the final dividend, the total for the year was 1p, compared with 2.5p last year.

Allied-Lyons sees growth at Hiram Walker

By Lisa Wood

Hiram Walker, the Canadian-based spirits business, should make a further positive contribution to Allied-Lyons' earnings given to acquire the remaining 49 per cent of Hiram Walker, which Allied does not already own.

In the six months ended August 31, 1987 Hiram Walker's pre-tax profit, after interest on its own debt and excluding an extraordinary profit, was \$57.6m. After deducting the cost of financing the acquisition, taxation and minority interests the net benefit to Allied shareholders, before extraordinary profits, was \$13.7m.

Amal Financial rises to £1.3m on profit-taking

Amalgamated Financial Investments, investment company, was boosted by profits taken on investments in the summer and early autumn. Reported interim pre-tax profit up from £299,000 to £1.33m. Earnings per share were 4.78p against 1.27p.

Turnover for the six months to September 30 was down at £62,000 (£108,000) but interest received was higher at £77,000 (£53,000) and profits on sale of investments came out at £1.26m, against £810,000.

The directors said that although there had been a fall in unrealised gains since the end of the period the overall change in the net asset value had been small since the announcement of the rights issue on July 21. Net asset value was 24.7p compared with 24.2p at November 27.

IOM Enterprises

Substantial growth was shown by IOM Enterprises in the year ended November 1 1987. It is raising its dividend by 2p to 6.5p.

Net turnover surged from £643,000 to £2.5m and pre-tax profit from £115,000 to £303,000. The company owns holding accommodation, commercial property and garages.

Earnings per 20p share worked through at 18.35p (8.09p) after tax £41,000 (£1,000).

General Electric Capital Corporation (formerly known as General Electric Credit Corporation) (a New York Corporation)

The foregoing corporation is an affiliate of General Electric Company, U.S.A.

General Electric Capital Corporation, (the "Company") announces that its board of directors has authorized the purchase by the Company from time to time of outstanding publicly-issued medium and long-term notes of the Company and of its wholly-owned subsidiary, General Electric Credit International N.V. ("GECI N.V."). Such notes of GECI N.V. are guaranteed by the Company. Certain issues of such notes are listed on the New York, American, London or Luxembourg stock exchanges. Purchases are expected to be made at prevailing prices, on the relevant exchange (if listed), in the over-the-counter market or in negotiated transactions, through one or more brokers or dealers or directly by the Company, subject in all cases to market conditions.

Holders are invited to contact Kidder, Peabody & Co. Incorporated, New York City (Edward Jewett, 212-510-3884) or Kidder, Peabody Securities, Limited, London (Lawrence Vindict, 01-480-8021) in respect of proposed sales of such notes to the company.

General Electric Capital Corporation

December 23, 1987

Dee critical of banks role in unwanted bid

BY NIKKI TAIT

Dee Corporation, the grocery group currently on the receiving end of £2bn bid from the much smaller sweets and supermarket company Barker & Holmes, yesterday criticised details of the takeover revealed in the offer document.

In a statement, Mr Alec Monk, Dee's chairman and chief executive, said: "The total expenses of £65m and the very high lending margins involved leave me in no doubt that it is Citicorp and the other banks who are in the driving seat in this deal and stand to gain the greatest profits at the expense of shareholders in both companies."

B & D is financing the £1.25bn cash portion of its offer by loans from a seven-strong syndicate of banks and expects to repay the

bulk of that debt by the disposal of Dee's non-Gateway and superstore interests.

The loan facility carries interest at 14 per cent over LIBOR and is repayable in instalments of 35 per cent, 35 per cent and 30 per cent after periods of 18 months and 30 months from the date when the bid goes unconditional respectively. The banks enjoy a £1m fee on the signing of the loan agreement and \$55m if the bid goes unconditional.

Yesterday the Dee board also reiterated its view that the offer is "hopelessly inadequate in value and quality." Shares in Dee eased 5p to 215p and Barker dropped 1p to 156p.

Cosalt plans share buy-in

Cosalt, Grimsby-based chandlery-to-caravans group, is to join the growing number of companies seeking shareholders' approval for a share buy-in plan. It intends to take powers to

buy in up to 10 per cent of its stock at a maximum price of 105 per cent of the average middle market quotation over the 10 business days leading up to any such purchase.

DIVIDENDS ANNOUNCED

	Current payment	Date of payment	Corresponding dividend	Total for year	Total last year
Pericom	nil	Mar 22	1.5	1	2.5
Platona Ltd	0.51	Mar 22	1.02	1	3.29

Dividends shown pence per share net except where otherwise stated. Equivalent after allowing for scrip issue. *On capital increased by rights and/or acquisition issues. \$USM stock. \$Unquoted stock. \$Third market.

CONSOLIDATED SEMI-ANNUAL REPORT

Statement of Income		Consolidated Net Sales	
For the period April 1, 1987 to September 30, 1987 in Millions of Yen		in Millions of Yen	
Net sales	1,710,495	1985	1,730
Costs of sales	1,236,483	1986	1,637
Income before taxes and minority interests	37,789	1987	1,581
Income taxes	18,768	1987	1,707
Net income	17,605	1987	1,710
Net income per share	5.88 (in Yen)	1987	1,500

Balance Sheet		Liabilities and Shareholders' Equity	
As at September 30, 1987 in Millions of Yen		As at September 30, 1987 in Millions of Yen	
Cash and time deposits	495,824	Bank loans and current portion of long-term debt	624,383
Notes and accounts receivable, trade	664,218	Notes and accounts payable, trade	584,548
Inventories	507,373	Other current liabilities	583,980
Other current assets	387,486	Long-term liabilities	821,113
Property, plant and equipment	755,630	Minority interests	129,816
Other assets	584,626	Shareholders' equity	651,437
Total assets	3,395,257	Total liabilities and shareholders' equity	3,395,257

In Touch with Tomorrow
TOSHIBA
TOSHIBA CORPORATION

Auctions

The Financial Times proposes to publish this survey on the 29th January 1988.

- A number of areas will be covered including:
- Commercial property
 - Residential property and land
 - Agricultural land and farms
 - Industrial investments
 - Retail property
 - Plant and machinery
 - Vehicles
 - Fine art

For editorial synopsis or any further details on advertising rates please contact Emma Cox on 01-248-5115 or your usual Financial Times representative.

Financial Times
European Business Newspaper

Munton Brothers falls sharply into the red

Munton Brothers, Belfast-based clothing designer and manufacturer, plunged into the red with a pre-tax loss of £3.77m for the fifteen month period to September 30, compared with a profit of £11,000 for the year to June 30 1986.

The loss is as forecast when details of the capital reconstruction scheme were announced in May and is stated after charging £1.25m of exceptional items arising from the business rationalisation programme (exceptional charges took £102,000 during the previous period).

Turnover was £13.47m against £12.5m for the year. There was no tax (credit of £51,000) and the loss per 10p ordinary was 38.44p (earnings of 34.16p).

The directors, having rationalised the core business, were now actively considering expanding the group through strategic

acquisitions. Several potential targets had been identified or approached, but it is unlikely that the first acquisition will be completed before the second quarter of 1988. Efforts were now being directed to improving factory efficiencies and to further improving margins. The continuing strength of the company's order book and margins, combined with the results of rationalisation, should result in a profit for the current year.

SAC INTERNATIONAL's shareholders were told at the annual meeting that the integration of the 7 companies acquired during 1987 has been completed and the major benefits will come through in 1988.

SFP has disposed of its interests in Robot Pompen B.V. Holland and the Componenta Group of the group through strategic

CONSOLIDATED GOLD FIELDS PLC

Any party who was a lessee of plant or equipment from Consolidated Gold Fields plc during the period 1980 to 1983 is invited to contact:

Box H2929, Financial Times,
10 Cannon Street,
London, EC4A 3BY

Petrocorp

Petrocorp Overseas Finance Limited

(The "Company")
(Incorporated with limited liability in the Cayman Islands)

NOTICE

to the holders of the outstanding
ECU 75,000,000 9 per cent. Guaranteed Bonds Due 1993
of the Company

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN to the holders of the above Bonds that, at the Meeting of such holders convened by the Notice published in the Financial Times and the Luxembourg Gazette on 17th November, 1987 and held on Friday, 11th December, 1987, the Extraordinary Resolution set out in such Notice was duly passed. Accordingly, Condition 11(viii) of the Bonds has been deleted with effect from such date and a right has been conferred on Bondholders optionally to redeem their Bonds on 28th November, 1988. In addition, the issuer has been given a right optionally to redeem all the outstanding Bonds if in consequence of prior redemptions or purchases and cancellations ECU 7,500,000 or less in principal amount of the Bonds remains outstanding.

This Notice is given by
Petrocorp Corporation
of New Zealand Limited
Dated 23rd December, 1987

Granada bid for ER gets go-ahead

BY NIKKI TAIT

THE \$250M BID by Granada, TV and leisure group, for rival television rental chain, Electronic Rentals, is not to be referred to the Monopolies Commission.

The Secretary of State for Trade and Industry made the announcement yesterday. Monopolies fears had surrounded the bid because Granada has more than 20 per cent of the TV and video rental market, and Electronic Rentals about 15 per cent.

However there is already one dominant player in the market, Thorn-EMI, with 40 per cent. Moreover, Granada has consistently argued that it is increasingly difficult to separate the rental and retail markets, an argument which appears to have convinced the Office of Fair Trading. If the two segments are considered together, the share taken by a combined Granada/Electronic Rentals group would be less than 20 per cent.

Yesterday, Mr Derek Lewis,

Granada's finance director, said that the company was very pleased about the decision, although not entirely surprised. "It was nice to know definitely before Christmas. It could have been a last minute thing."

The closing date for the offer, which is now recommended by the Electronic Rentals board, is December 30. Although it could be extended, Granada hopes to have settled the purchase by then.

"Clearly, that is well within reach," said Mr Lewis. "It's a nice Christmas present ahead of Christmas." Granada owns 14.9 per cent and Philips, Dutch electronics group, with a 21.8 per cent holding, has pledged irrevocably to accept.

Granada was the first UK company to launch a takeover bid after Black Monday. Yesterday, its shares rose 4p to 303p while Electronic Rentals gained 13p to 87p.

Shares in Chase Property halted on bid talks

By Heather Pambrugh

SHARES IN Chase Property Holdings were suspended yesterday at 2.55p as the company announced that talks were taking place which might lead to an offer for the company.

Chase was formerly known as Property Holding and Investment Trust, which was taken over last year by Wingate Property Investments. As a result, the New Zealand based Chase Corporation has 60 per cent of the shares.

However, the New Zealand company is heavily geared, leading to market speculation that it might want to sell its holding following the fall in stock markets.

Trafalgar House yesterday refused to comment on reports that it was considering a bid for Chase.

Chase Property's asset value is estimated at approximately 270p a share, which values the company at a possible £255m in the event of a bid.

The directors were available for comment yesterday afternoon.

Wace continues to expand

Wace Group, the rapidly expanding pre-press services group, has completed its eighth acquisition of the year. Wace is buying London-based Mayday Reproduction for an initial consideration of £2.93m.

A further performance-related payment, an amount of £1.35m, will be made if Mayday's pre-tax profit for 1988 exceeds £400,000.

Like Wace, Mayday provides a comprehensive pre-press service. In 1986, the company made a pre-tax profit of £410,229 on £4.6m turnover.

Vickers disposal

Vickers has sold the business and net assets of its Joyce-Loeb operation, previously part of Vickers Medical and Scientific Equipment division, to the management of that division for £1.85m.

The new company will be owned by Joyce-Loeb and the new owners are the four directors of the business, S.J. Keat, A.C. Douglas, A.W. Robinson and M.F. Watts who are backed financially by Lloyd Bank.

Joyce-Loeb exports over 70 per cent of its products and is a world leader in the process of image analysis for medical purposes.

Maxiprint rights

Maxiprint, USM-quoted maker of colour photographic enlargements, has announced that it has agreed to raise £250,000 net through a rights issue of 1m shares at 25p on a 1-for-10 basis.

The issue has been underwritten by new institutional investors, who will also be purchasing additional shares.

Proceeds will be used for the marketing and production of the new fully automated daylight enlarger.

Hogg Robinson

Hogg Robinson, travel, transport, financial and property services group, has conditionally agreed to acquire Dunphy's Real Estate, a London-based estate agency.

The purchase, for an approximate sum of £750,000, is to be satisfied by £225,000 cash with the balance made up of 277,779 new Hogg Robinson ordinary shares. Dunphy's will complement Hogg Robinson's existing estate agency chain in the south of England and, following the opening of a new branch in Tolworth next month, will increase its network to the initial target of 100 outlets.

Acis Jewellery purchases recruitment group for £5.9m

BY NIKKI TAIT

Acis Jewellery, the USM-quoted company and one of the summer's highest-flying shell companies, yesterday announced its first deal since South African businessman Mr Darryl Phillips moved in.

It is acquiring Taylor Portfolio, a specialist recruitment, hotel consultancy and sales promotion group, for £5.9m. This will be satisfied by the issue of 7.57m new Acis shares, valued at 78p, plus £260,000 cash.

The issue will give the vendors just over 30 per cent of the enlarged company, with 22.8 per cent concentrated in the hands of Taylor's founders, Mr

David Sewell and Mr David Coubrough. The interest of Windstorm, the British Virgin Islands company controlled by Mr Phillips, will reduce to 26.1 per cent. The vendors of Taylor have guaranteed not to sell any shares for at least one year.

Taylor takes in three trading companies. Taylor & Partners, set up in 1982 by David Sewell, which is involved in the recruitment of marketing and marketing services personnel; Portfolio International, a recruitment consultancy for the hotel, catering and leisure sectors founded in 1985 by David Coubrough; and The Business Development Part-

nership, which began life this year and offers sales promotion services to the consumer goods industry. Mr Sewell and Mr Coubrough will be joining the Acis board.

In 1986, Taylor made £47,000 profit before tax on sales of £608,000. For 1987, the vendors are warranting profits of not less than £500,000.

Yesterday, Mr Phillips said the acquisition had been under consideration ahead of the stock-market collapse, and added that Acis hoped to complete a couple of other deals in the marketing services area in early 1988. Acis shares added 5p to 86p

Cambrian & General plans to eliminate its borrowings

BY CLAY HARRIS

Cambrian & General Securities, the former UK investment vehicle of Mr Ivan Bosky, is to eliminate its borrowings by redeeming \$50m (£27.3m) in secured floating rate notes next month.

Some disposals of Cambrian's holdings of stripped US Treasury bonds will be required to repay the borrowings, according to Mr David Hobson, who last year succeeded Mr Bosky, the convicted US insider trader, as chairman.

The redemption at par of the \$50m in notes due in 1988 continues Cambrian's shift to a

more conservative investment strategy after four years under Mr Bosky's direction.

Shareholders yesterday unanimously backed the board's decision to reject procedural motions which could have led to the liquidation of the investment company. The motions were required under Cambrian's articles of association.

Mr Hobson said net asset values had fallen again in November as the result of the dollar's slide. Cambrian continued its policy of not hedging because a

significant number of shareholders were US-based.

The asset value of ordinary shares declined to 134p at November 30, against 138p on October 31 and 178p at the pre-crash financial year-end on September 30. The comparable values for capital shares were 163p, 180p and 253p.

All figures were subject to revision, Mr Hobson stressed, because of Cambrian's continuing exposure to legal action in the US and the Inland Revenue's review of its investment trust status.

Expamet in £5.5m security expansion

By Richard Tomkins

Expamet International, supplier of components and services to the industrial, building and security markets, yesterday added another company to its security division with the acquisition of the privately-owned Cash & Security Equipment for £5.45m in cash and shares.

Cash & Security makes coin and note handling equipment and supplies camera surveillance equipment, mainly to banks and building societies.

The company made pre-tax profits of £724,000 in the year to last March and had net assets of £1.8m at its year end. Mr Malcolm White, the vendor, has warranted that pre-tax profits for the period from April to December 1987 will be at least £625,000.

Expamet is paying an initial £5.15m, of which about £480,000 is in cash and the rest in ordinary shares. The remaining £300,000 will become payable in January 1988.

Spectrum cuts loss

Spectrum Group cut its loss from £1.05m to £477,000 in the year ended June 30 1987.

Gross margins improved considerably because of the increased proportion of own-brand products sold, selling, distribution and administration costs were reduced, and interest charges cut following a substantial reduction in borrowings.

Worthington triples profits to £142,000

A J Worthington (Holdings), manufacturer of textile products, almost tripled pre-tax profits from £48,000 to £142,000 on turnover up from £1.76m to £2.14m for the half year to September 30 1987.

The company made profits of £111,000 (£52,000 loss) for the year to end March.

Half year earnings per 10p share were lifted to 2.3p (0.8p). The directors said they would consider recommending at the annual meeting a return to the dividend list in the current financial year - the last dividend was paid in October 1982.

Both the group's operating companies enjoyed a successful half year with increased turnover and profit. Order books were sound.

Bad weather and higher interest hits Wistech

Wistech, cleaning, maintenance and waste materials handling services, reported a £50,000 downturn to £402,000 in pre-tax profits for the year to September, although turnover improved from £8.31m to £11.3m. Responsibility for the setback is attributed to the severe winter weather but there was also a £92,000 increase to £259,000 in interest charges.

Coupled with the preliminary statement is the announcement that the acquisition of Imperial Municipal Pollution for an initial £300,000 in shares.

Chessminster buys

Chessminster Group, the shares of which were suspended on the Vancouver Stock Exchange and under Rule 535.4a on the London exchange in September, has exchanged contracts for the purchase of the Farr Group, a UK construction company, for £2.8m in cash and shares.

Chessminster is also calling on shareholders for \$6.1m net via a rights issue of 17.5m common shares, \$4.46m of which have been underwritten or committed, on the basis of one new share at

CS0.84, or 35p per share, for every two shares held.

Dealings in the company's shares recommenced on the Vancouver market on Monday. The London market, however, has taken the view that Chessminster no longer fulfils its criteria that the principal market should remain overseas and accordingly has decided that the dealing facility under Rule 535.4a will no longer be provided. UK shareholders should be able to deal through a Canadian stockbroker in London.

Batleys turnover

Turnover of Batleys, Yorkshire-based confectionery wholesaler, rose from £112.23m to £122.11m in the 26 weeks to October 31 last and not from £112,226 to £122,108 as reported in yesterday's Financial Times.

PENINSULAR AND ORIENTAL Steam Navigation yesterday listed its deferred stock on the Tokyo Stock Exchange.

BOARD MEETINGS

The following companies have notice dates or board meetings to the Stock Exchange. Such meetings are usually held for the purpose of considering dividends. Official indications are not published as to whether the dividends are interim or final and the sub-sequent share price is based mainly on last year's results.

Company	Date
Courts (Furnishings)	Jan 14
Johns (Furnishings)	Jan 15
Practical Investments	Jan 16
Real Time Capital	Jan 16
Stanley Leisure	Jan 16
Wynn	Jan 16
Associated Energy Services	Jan 16
First National Finance	Jan 16
Sander	Jan 16
TSS	Jan 16

Interim: Marshfield Brewery.

FUTURE DATES

Interim: Brunner.

Public Works Loan Board rates

Effective December 21

Years	By EIP	At	Non-quota loans A* repaid	By EIP	At
Over 1 up to 2	9%	9%	9%	10%	10%
Over 2 up to 3	9%	9%	9%	10%	10%
Over 3 up to 4	9%	9%	9%	10%	10%
Over 4 up to 5	9%	9%	9%	10%	10%
Over 5 up to 6	9%	9%	9%	10%	10%
Over 6 up to 7	9%	9%	9%	10%	10%
Over 7 up to 8	9%	9%	9%	10%	10%
Over 8 up to 9	9%	9%	9%	10%	10%
Over 9 up to 10	9%	9%	9%	10%	10%
Over 10 up to 15	9%	9%	9%	10%	10%
Over 15 up to 25	9%	9%	9%	10%	10%
Over 25	9%	9%	9%	10%	10%

*Non-quota loans B are 1 per cent higher in each case than non-quota loans A. *Equal instalments of principal. *Repayment by half-yearly annuity (fixed equal half-yearly payments to include principal and interest). *With half-yearly payments of interest only.

NOTICE OF Redemption

European Economic Community

£50,000,000 11% per cent. Bonds 1981

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, pursuant to the terms and conditions of the Bonds, Citibank, N.A., as Principal Paying Agent, has selected by lot for redemption on February 1, 1988 £10,000,000 principal amount of said Notes, at the redemption price of 100% of the principal amount thereof. Notes selected by lot for redemption are as follows:

Outstanding Notes bearing serial numbers ending in any of the following two digits:

06	08	12	15	23	25	33	41	44	45
47	50	55	71	76	80	90	92	93	94

Payment will be made upon surrender of Bonds together with all coupons maturing after the date fixed for redemption, at the offices of the Paying Agents as shown on the Bonds. Coupons maturing on February 1, 1988 should be detached and presented for payment in the usual manner. On and after February 1, 1988 interest on the Bonds will cease to accrue and unmaturing coupons will become void.

Outstanding after February 1, 1988 £30,000,000.

December 22, 1987

By: Citibank, N.A. (Citi Dept.)
London, Principal Paying Agent

CITIBANK

Franklin

SAVINGS ASSOCIATION

U.S. \$250,000,000

Collateralized Floating Rate Notes due 1991

For the six month period 21st December, 1987 to 21st June, 1988 the Notes will carry an Interest Rate of 8 1/4% per annum with an interest amount of U.S. \$4,289.06 per U.S. \$100,000 Note and U.S. \$10,722.66 per U.S. \$250,000 Note payable on 21st June, 1988.

Bankers Trust Company, London

Agent Bank

The Council of Europe Resettlement Fund for National Refugees and Over-Population in Europe

¥10,000,000,000

Floating Rate Notes due 1994 (the "Notes")

In accordance with the terms and conditions of the Notes, notice is hereby given that for the interest period from 23rd December, 1987 to 23rd June, 1988 being the first Interest Payment Date (as defined in the terms and conditions), the Notes will carry an Interest Rate of 5.15% per annum.

Interest payable on 23rd June, 1988 will amount to ¥258,205 per ¥10,000,000 Note.

Agent Bank

The Long-Term Credit Bank of Japan, Limited

Tokyo

BANCO ESPRITO SANTO

COMERCIAL DE LISBOA

Floating Rate Notes Due 1990

In accordance with the terms and conditions of the Notes, notice is hereby given that for the interest period from 23rd December, 1987 to 23rd June, 1988 being the first Interest Payment Date (as defined in the terms and conditions), the Notes will carry an Interest Rate of 5.15% per annum.

Interest payable on 23rd June, 1988 will amount to ¥258,205 per ¥10,000,000 Note.

Agent Bank

Standard & Chartered

Standard Chartered Merchant Bank Limited

London

The Dee Corporation PLC

NOTICE TO HOLDERS OF THE DEE CORPORATION PLC 5 PER CENT. CONVERTIBLE BONDS DUE 2002 (THE "BONDS")

In accordance with the requirements of the Trust Deed constituting the Bonds, The Dee Corporation PLC ("Dee") hereby gives notice to holders of the Bonds that an offer has been made by Kleinwort Benson Limited on behalf of Barker & Dobson Group plc for the whole of the share capital of Dee not already owned by it. The formal offer document states that the offer extends to Dee shares allotted, while the offer remains open for acceptance, on conversion of the Bonds; and that, to the extent that such conversion rights are not exercised, pursuant to the City Code on Takeovers and Mergers and subject to the offer becoming unconditional in all respects, appropriate proposals will be made to holders of the Bonds.

Copies of all documents issued to Dee shareholders by the Board of Dee may be obtained from Lazard Brothers & Co., Limited, 21 Moorfields, London, EC2P 2HT, Morgan Grenfell & Co., Limited, 72 London Wall, London EC2M 5NL, the Company's Registered Office, Silbury Court, 418 Silbury Boulevard, Milton Keynes, MK9 2NB and the Paying Agent.

23RD DECEMBER 1987

The Directors of Dee accept responsibility for the information contained in this notice. To the best of their knowledge and belief (having taken all reasonable care to ensure that such is the case) the information contained in this notice is in accordance with the facts and does not omit anything likely to affect the import of such information.

COMMODITIES AND AGRICULTURE

Dispute adds to nickel problems

BY KENNETH GOODING, MINING CORRESPONDENT

EUROPEAN ferro-nickel consumers have already been affected by a dispute between Falconbridge, the Canadian mining group, and the Government of the Dominican Republic over export duties.

Falconbridge said yesterday that a shipment of 1.8m lbs (about 817 tonnes) of ferro-nickel destined for European customers failed to leave the Dominican Republic last week.

The dispute is bound to exacerbate the growing shortage of nickel which has pushed the price of the metal up by more

than 50 per cent since January this year.

Last night the price of nickel for immediate delivery soared by another \$20 to \$4,586 a tonne, a premium over three months metal widened by \$25.50 to \$1,666.

Discussions this week between Falconbridge, the Dominican Republic's Finance Minister

so far have failed to resolve the conflict.

At issue is the Dominican Republic's decision to link an export duty on ferro-nickel shipments to the exchange rate by using four Dominican dollars to the US dollar as the base. The

current rate is five Dominican dollars to the US dollar so there is effectively a 25 per cent export duty.

Falconbridge said this was an unacceptable situation and it had no recourse but to suspend export shipments until the situation was resolved.

It is not clear whether in the circumstances Falconbridge can declare *force majeure* (the clause in a metal supply contract which allows the seller not to deliver or the buyer not to take delivery because of events beyond his control) but the com-

pany is "looking at that", an official said yesterday.

Last year Falconbridge Dominicana accounted for nearly all the 23,522 tonnes of ferro-nickel shipped by the group which also sold 41,321 tonnes of refined nickel in all forms.

Falconbridge Dominicana is continuing to produce ferro-nickel and is probably the only company in the world currently stockpiling the metal.

Mr John Harris, an analyst with Rudolf Wolff, the London metal trader, suggests that, fuelled by demand from the stainless steel producers who take more than half of production, western consumption of nickel this year will reach 610,000, a rise of nearly 8 per cent on 1986.

In a special report, "Nickel on course for \$4 a lb", he estimates the market will be in deficit to the tune of 40,000 tonnes compared with a surplus of 15,000 tonnes at the end of last year.

The tightness will continue in the first half of 1988, when western demand at about 313,000 tonnes and supply about 300,000 tonnes - leaving a deficit of 13,000 tonnes.

Western nickel stocks have shrunk from 133,000 (about 12 weeks consumption) at the beginning of this year to 93,000 tonnes (about eight weeks consumption). Mr Harris expects a further fall in stocks to 80,000 tonnes (about seven and a half weeks consumption) by the end of the first half of 1988.

Another key factor for the industry next year is that about half the labour contracts are up for renewal. Fear of strikes could increase slightly next year, by which time prices are expected to rise sharply, particularly because the unions could have more bargaining power in view of current high prices.

Mr Harris says: "We foresee a shortage of freely available nickel and a scramble is likely for the limited amount of material available."

Cocoa market rally continues

By David Blackwell

COCOA PRICES continued to advance in London yesterday as speculators covered short positions in the run-up to the Christmas break.

The second position futures contract on the London futures market added \$12 a tonne to Monday's \$11 gain, closing at \$1,086 a tonne. That was the highest price since the beginning of the month when the price reached \$1,137 a tonne before nosediving after the failure of the International Cocoa Organisation (ICCO) to agree on measures to reactivate the price support mechanism.

Prices had gone even higher in the morning, but lost some ground on profit-taking in the afternoon, coupled with a retreat from early peaks in New York.

Market sentiment has been boosted over the past few days by the relative tightness of supply of good quality cocoa for physical delivery.

Traders cite concern over the lateness of the West African crop, the fact that producer countries are not selling much cocoa, and the dock strike in Lagos which could further hamper supplies.

There has also been talk in the market that the ICCO might meet in January to reconsider price support proposals. But yesterday an official of the organisation in London said the next meeting was scheduled to take place on February 29.

However, the Ivory Coast said yesterday that if Mr Edward Kouame, executive director of ICCO, were to convene an emergency meeting, it would be willing to attend.

Dole backs ethanol industry

BY NANCY DUNNE IN WASHINGTON

MR ROBERT Dole, the Senate Republican leader and a candidate for the Republican presidential nomination, has urged that ethanol become a "cornerstone" of US energy policy.

Embracing a recent report released by the US Agriculture Department's Energy Office, the Senator endorsed adoption of a "consistent and reliable public policy" on ethanol, specifically continuation of current federal excise tax incentives.

The report - and Senator Dole's support - is likely to get particular attention in Iowa where the senator will challenge Vice President George Bush in the first state caucus of the presidential nomination season.

According to the report US fuel ethanol production has grown from 20m gallons in 1979 to an estimated 850m gallons this year. In the US maize is the predominant ethanol feedstock, but other grains are used as well.

The report predicts increased production efficiency in the industry with processing innovations which will reduce the cost of ethanol in the near term.

If production is encouraged through governmental policy, then existing facilities are likely to expand their capacity, and new conversions and construction are to be expected. "Ethanol will provide benefits to the agriculture sector in terms of higher prices for maize and other feed grains, increased farm income and savings on agricultural programmes which would more than offset the current federal excise tax exemptions costs for ethanol," the report said.

Increased production would also produce benefits for rural economies that are under severe economic stress by generating

jobs, personal income and tax revenues in localities now under great stress, it said.

It warned, however, that some crops - notably soybeans and other oilseeds - may be hurt by changes in farm programmes which could result from encouragement to grow more maize. It also cautioned Congress to watch the 1993 termination date of the scheduled end of the tax benefits granted to ethanol.

"Given the instability inherent in the current world oil market, the ethanol industry needs to be assured that its products will continue to receive the support essential to remain commercially viable," the report concluded.

"With federal incentives set to expire in 1993, the necessary stability and consistency are currently lacking and discourage further expansion."

work depends on regulations being worked out by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry. It is thought that trading companies or co-operatives will be formed to handle the expected sugar exports in 1988.

Government concerns centre on the inexperience of certain sugar producers in handling their own exports and the risk of a breakdown in productivity, of bringing forward sugar exports slated for August to earlier in the year, as an example of a trade that still needs government guidance.

According to current Ministry thinking, the subsidy to exports, now running at \$34 a tonne, would be cut in half for the first harvest after privatisation and removed altogether for the subsequent harvest, in an effort to encourage domestic sugar producers to match the lower world price for sugar.

Wheat crop record beaten again

By Patrick Knight in Sao Paulo

BRAZIL'S 1987 wheat harvest of 5.7m tonnes is its third record harvest in a row and confirms a breakthrough in productivity to above 1.5 tonnes a hectare.

In the 1970s and early 1980s harvest were nearer 2m than 3m tonnes and productivity was around one tonne per hectare. Low soil prices in 1984 encouraged farmers in Rio Grande do Sul and Parana to start taking wheat seriously. This year's productivity of 1.676 kilos per hectare ensures that the 1987 harvest will be the same in future years despite a lower support price resulting in 11 per cent less than last year's 3.9m hectares being planted.

Agronomists do not foresee Brazil's wheat harvest falling below 5.5m tonnes in future years except in an exceptionally poor year.

Demand is also expected to remain at about the present 7m tonnes. This year 2.1m tonnes will have been imported, 700,000 tonnes from Canada and the rest under a contract which envisages imports from Argentina rising from 1.3m tonnes to 2m tonnes by 1991.

The productivity breakthrough follows the introduction of Mexican varieties able to cope with the weather in Rio Grande do Sul and Parana, where it is usually either too dry or too wet at critical times for the traditional varieties to do well.

Improved expertise has meant that in spite of support prices for wheat now being the equivalent of US\$186 a tonne compared with US\$280 in 1984 production has risen. Brazil has consumed about 1.5m tonnes of wheat this year, 200,000 tonnes less than in 1986 when a record subsidy meant that flour cost bakers and consumers only 25 per cent of its ex-mill price.

The subsidy was slashed to about 20 per cent in mid-year. Improved soy prices may mean that less than the 3.4m hectares sown this year are planted in 1988 but less as to make Brazil the major wheat importer it was in the past.

Tin traders not discouraged

BY WONG SULONG IN KUALA LUMPUR

TWO MONTHS after its launch trading remains thin in the Kuala Lumpur Commodities Exchange's tin contract - but exchange officials say they are not discouraged.

They point out that the contract - the only one of its kind - was launched just after the world's stock market crash, which had deterred speculators. Daily turnover has been between 120 and 190 lots of one tonne, well below the 300 lots expected by the exchange, but open interest (the overlap of unmatched trades) has been increasing steadily, breaching the 1,000 mark late last month, and reaching 1,327 contracts yesterday.

"The increase in the open positions is very encouraging. It shows there are people who are

interested in the tin futures," said a KLCE official.

He said the exchange did not regard the proposed tin contract as a threat. The LME is seen as a complementary market that would widen interest, apart from opening up arbitrage opportunities between the two markets.

An LME sub-committee is currently studying the feasibility of restarting tin trading, which was suspended following the collapse of the International Tin Council's price support operation late in 1985.

The KLCE official said if tin

a reciprocal enforcement law between Malaysia and the UK, according to a corporate lawyer.

The merchant bank won its claim for the non-payment of a loan given to MMC Metals, MMC's defunct subsidiary in Britain, which went into receivership at the time of the tin market collapse in October.

Trading was resumed on the LME, the KLCE would probably increase its tin contract size from 1 tonne to a half tonne (five tonnes to match that adopted previously by LME. Such a move would also reduce the cost of trading on the KLCE.

To encourage international participation the KLCE tin contract is denominated in US dollars.

On the Kuala Lumpur physical market yesterday, tin was traded at 15.99 ringgit a kg (equivalent to \$680 a tonne) up 3 cents, on turnover of 77 tonnes, up 22 tonnes.

Copper price surge gives Chile \$300m boost

CHILE, the world's largest producer and exporter of copper, stands to earn more than \$300m in additional export revenues this year thanks to the surge in world copper prices to the highest levels since 1980.

General Augusto Pinochet's regime receives roughly 10 per cent of its fiscal revenues from Codelco, the state copper mining corporation, which also turns over to the Chilean military another 10 per cent of the books' share of its earnings.

Officials had based this year's budget on an estimated average price of 70 cents a pound but the price surge of recent months has lifted the average to around 80 cents a lb and each one cent increment in the annual average price earns Chile an extra \$30m to \$32m in a full year.

It is unclear, however, whether the price rise will have an appreciable effect on the Chilean economy. GDP grew last year by 5.7 per cent and is expected to show a similar increase this year, but imports have been rising even faster.

Mary Helen Spooner reports on the prospects for the world's biggest producer

Minister, other than keeping operating costs low. Chile is able to produce copper at about 42 cents per pound, one of the lowest costs in the world.

Codelco is investing about \$400m annually over the next five years to increase ore production and processing capacity in the face of declining ore grades.

State - copper production increased slightly last year, by 25,000 tonnes to 1.1m tonnes. The first eight months of this year showed a decrease of 13,200 tonnes.

Chile's next largest copper producer is the state-owned Empresa Nacional de Minería, which represents the Government in joint-venture mining investments and supports the small mining sector by

of 22.2m tonnes.

Chile's mining code provides that the Government owns the resources but that the investors - whether Chilean or foreign - hold full concessionary rights. The holder of a mining or exploration concession is entitled to explore and exploit the deposits within the area of the concession. Foreign investors are subject to a 49 per cent tax on earnings with no limit on profits remittances and a three year vesting period for capital repatriation.

Mr Lipa denied that the regime planned to privatise Codelco's four mines, in spite of rumours to that effect which occasionally circulate in political opposition circles.

"Codelco is far too important to the state and to Chile," the Mines Minister said. "But we welcome foreign investors in our copper mines are not developed in Chile, they will be developed in some other country, and we'd prefer to have them here."

LONDON MARKETS

COPPER PRICES on the London Metal Exchange continue to be supported by strong fundamental factors - especially the falling levels of warehouse stocks and the scarcity of quality metal.

However, dealers believe that the market is technically overbought and due for a correction. The cash price rose to a new all-time high of \$1,700 a tonne in nervous morning trading before retreating to close \$7.50 down at \$1,677 a tonne. Aluminium prices closed near the day's lows under light liquidation orders in a thin market, dealers said.

Free offering of cash metal in morning trading found few takers, and downward pressure was exerted by Japanese selling and profit-taking. The premium for 99.5 per cent cash metal narrowed to 250.50 a tonne from 287 a tonne on Monday. Meanwhile coffee prices eased in what dealers described as dull trading. Traders seemed content with squaring their books.

SPOT MARKETS

Crude oil (per barrel FOB January) + or -
Dubai \$14.45-4.55 +1.40
Brent Blend \$16.45-6.55 +0.925
WTI (pm est) \$16.45-6.55 +0.875

Oil products (NWE prompt delivery per tonne CIF)
Gas oil \$119.75 +0.25
Premium Gasoline \$161.14 +0.7
Gas oil \$150-152 +7
Heavy Fuel Oil 75-77 +7.5
Naphtha 138-141 +7.5

Petroleum Argus Estimates
Other + or -
Gold (per troy oz) \$433.50 +0.40
Silver (per troy oz) \$52.25 +0.50
Platinum (per troy oz) \$801.75 +3.50
Palladium (per troy oz) \$119.75 +0.25

Aluminium (free market) \$220.50 -25
Copper (US Producer) \$174.14 -2.5
Lead (US Producer) 42k 350
Nickel (free market) 227.00 +10
Tin (European free market) 16.25 +0.03
Tin (Kuala Lumpur market) 218.50
Zinc (Euro. Prod. Price) 38.00
Zinc (US Prime Western) 44.3750

Cattle (five weight) 105.41p -0.37
Sheep (dead weight) 184.19p -0.30
Pigs (live weight) 70.03p -0.18
London daily sugar (raw) \$225.50v
London daily sugar (white) \$228.00v
Tato and Lyle export price \$220.50

Barley (English best) \$111.50v
Maize (US No. 3 yellow) \$195.00v
Wheat (US Hard Northern) \$24.50v

Rubber (spot) 62.25v
Rubber (May) 64.25v
Rubber (Jul) 64.25v
Rubber (Oct) 64.25v
Rubber (Dec) 64.25v

Coconut oil (Philippines) \$37.00v
Coconut oil (Malaysia) \$37.00v
Cocoa (Philippines) \$37.00v
Soyabean (US) \$51.00v
Cotton 'A' index 75.40v
Wooltops (45 Super) 48.40v

2 a tonne unless otherwise stated. p=pence/kg, c=cents/kg, v=vol/kg, w=decim, m=May, J=June, J=July, A=August, S=September, O=October, N=November, D=December. London physical market. CIF Rotterdam & Sultan market close. m-Malaysia/Singapore cents/kg

COCOA \$/tonne

Dec	1081	1044	1068	1050
Nov	1072	1024	1058	1038
Oct	1105	1057	1116	1098
Sept	1125	1117	1134	1118
Aug	1125	1117	1134	1118
Jul	1125	1117	1134	1118
Jun	1125	1117	1134	1118
May	1125	1117	1134	1118
Apr	1125	1117	1134	1118
Mar	1125	1117	1134	1118
Feb	1125	1117	1134	1118
Jan	1125	1117	1134	1118

Turnover: 7888 (2511) lots of 10 tonnes
ICCO indicator prices (500 lbs per tonne). Daily price for December 21: 1374.25 (1358.39, 10 day average for December 22: 1358.19/1355.48).

COFFEE \$/tonne

Jan	1204	1208	1208	1202
Feb	1201	1205	1205	1202
Mar	1201	1205	1205	1202
Apr	1201	1205	1205	1202
May	1201	1205	1205	1202
Jun	1201	1205	1205	1202
Jul	1201	1205	1205	1202
Aug	1201	1205	1205	1202
Sep	1201	1205	1205	1202
Oct	1201	1205	1205	1202
Nov	1201	1205	1205	1202
Dec	1201	1205	1205	1202
Jan	1201	1205	1205	1202

Turnover: 1981 (2584) lots of 5 tonnes
ICO indicator prices (US cents per pound) for 15 day average for December 21: 1374.25 (1358.39, 10 day average for December 22: 1358.19/1355.48).

SUGAR \$/tonne

Mar 1443 (2343) lots 50 tonners				Jan 138.00	139.50	141.00	142.50
Apr 1443 (2343) lots 50 tonners				Feb 138.00	139.50	141.00	142.50
Parls-White (Pfr tonners) Mar 1277, May 1301, Aug 1295, Oct 1286, Dec 1336, Mar 1370.				Aug 121.00	118.00	115.00	112.00
				Oct 101.00	110.00	108.00	106.00
				Dec 105.00	104.00	103.00	102.00
GAS OIL /tonne				Turnover: 10 [5] lots 100 tonners			
Close				FREIGHT FUTURES £/index point			
Close				Close			
High/Low				High/Low			
Jan	148.00	146.75	148.55	148.00	Jan	1277.00	1272.50
Feb	143.75	139.50	144.85	137.50	Feb	1270.00	1266.00
Mar	138.00	133.50	138.50	134.25	Mar	1260.00	1256.00
Apr	138.00	133.50	138.50	134.25	Apr	1165.00	1164.00
May	138.00	133.50	138.50	134.25	May	1165.00	1164.00
Jun	138.00	133.50	138.50	134.25	Jun	1165.00	1164.00
Jul	138.00	133.50	138.50	134.25	Jul	1201.50	1197.00
Aug	138.00	133.50	138.50	134.25	Oct	1201.50	1197.00
Sep	138.00	133.50	138.50	134.25	Dec	1201.50	1197.00
Oct	138.00	133.50	138.50	134.25	1981	1201.50	1197.00
Nov	138.00	133.50	138.50	134.25			
Dec	138.00	133.50	138.50	134.25			

CURRENCIES, MONEY & CAPITAL MARKETS

FOREIGN EXCHANGES

Dollar drifts in quiet trading

THE DOLLAR failed to gain any strength from news that cuts in the US budget deficit had been agreed by Congress. Much of the impact had already been discounted and the absence of any real trading volume made it difficult to act on assessments, at least until the new year.

While it was possible to take a view, most speculators were reluctant to commit themselves one way or the other. The overall outlook for the dollar remained extremely bearish but there were a few analysts who urged caution.

The majority opinion suggested that the US administration would find it very difficult to introduce unpopular measures in the run up to next year's Presidential election, others suggested that the dollar, although probably destined for a further decline, was nearing its base level.

The choice was there to make but most operators took the middle course, preferring to sit on the fence until the new year. The dollar fell to DM1.8285 from DM1.8340 and ¥129.60 compared with ¥127.00. Elsewhere it slipped to Sfr1.3235 from Sfr1.3285 and FF5.5050 compared with FF5.5225. On Bank of England figures, the dollar's exchange rate index fell from 93.4 to 93.2.

STERLING-Trading range against the dollar in 1987 is 1.8305 to 1.4710. November average 1.7770. Exchange rate index 76.6, unchanged from the opening and Monday night's close. The six months ago figure was 71.8. Sterling showed little overall

change in the end. It had been weaker earlier in the day, possibly due to uncertainty ahead of today's trade figures for November. These are not expected to show any improvement over October's visible deficit of \$822m.

The pound closed at DM2.9800, down from DM2.9850 on Monday and ¥231.75 compared with ¥232.00. Elsewhere it finished at Sfr2.4225 from Sfr2.4275 and FF10.0875 from FF10.0875. Against the dollar it rose to \$1.8305 from \$1.8285.

D-MARK-Trading range against the dollar in 1987 is 1.9305 to 1.6220. November average 1.6809. Exchange rate index 151.3 against 146.4 six months ago.

There was no intervention by the Bundesbank at yesterday's fixing in Frankfurt when the dollar was fixed at DM1.8305 from DM1.8285 on Monday. Trading remained quiet and confined to a narrow range in the absence of any real turnover. News of further progress towards cutting the US budget deficit was well discounted and traders

now awaited some statement from the G7 ministers. However many traders did not expect this to provide any fresh clues, so there was a move towards squaring positions and awaiting developments in the new year.

Earlier in the day the dollar briefly topped ¥127.00 but this encouraged further selling.

Changes are for Dec 22. Previous close is Dec 21. Figures are for Dec 22.

Adjustment calculated by Financial Times.

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FINANCIAL FUTURES

Gilts show little change

LONG-TERM gilt futures closed little changed after a quiet day's trading on Life yesterday.

London interest rates had a slightly softer tone, as sterling improved against the dollar. Rising oil prices had less impact on sterling dominated contracts, since although higher oil prices are regarded as inflationary, the upward move will provide support for the pound.

As North Sea crude rose back above \$16 a barrel March long term gilts closed at 118-00, compared with 117-30 at the opening, and 118-02 on Monday's close.

The market now awaits today's

UK trade figures for November, which are expected to show trade deficit of about \$650m, and a current account shortfall in the region of \$260m.

Three-month sterling deposit futures also traded quietly, with traders uncertain about the future direction of UK bank base rates. March short sterling opened at 90.87, the day's high, and moved in a narrow range, down to a low of 90.83, against 90.85 on Monday.

US Treasury bond futures opened weaker on Life at 87-38, and fell to a low of 87-11, before closing at 87-17, compared with 88-05 previously.

The weaker trend was encouraged by stronger than expected US durable goods orders for November, and by a rise in oil futures prices.

November durable goods orders were unchanged. There was no reaction to news that the US Congress had approved a cut in the budget deficit by \$70bn over the next two years.

There is unlikely to be any shortage of long term paper in the new year, as the budget cutting bill includes a provision to increase the Treasury's long bond issuing authority. A 30-year bond auction will be held in February.

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FT UNIT TRUST INFORMATION SERVICE

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Co Ltd 100 Victoria Road, London E14 4AG 01-494 9551 01-494 9552 01-494 9553 01-494 9554 01-494 9555 01-494 9556 01-494 9557 01-494 9558 01-494 9559 01-494 9560 01-494 9561 01-494 9562 01-494 9563 01-494 9564 01-494 9565 01-494 9566 01-494 9567 01-494 9568 01-494 9569 01-494 9570 01-494 9571 01-494 9572 01-494 9573 01-494 9574 01-494 9575 01-494 9576 01-494 9577 01-494 9578 01-494 9579 01-494 9580 01-494 9581 01-494 9582 01-494 9583 01-494 9584 01-494 9585 01-494 9586 01-494 9587 01-494 9588 01-494 9589 01-494 9590 01-494 9591 01-494 9592 01-494 9593 01-494 9594 01-494 9595 01-494 9596 01-494 9597 01-494 9598 01-494 9599 01-494 9600	Clifford Medical Investments Group 100 Victoria Road, London E14 4AG 01-494 9601 01-494 9602 01-494 9603 01-494 9604 01-494 9605 01-494 9606 01-494 9607 01-494 9608 01-494 9609 01-494 9610 01-494 9611 01-494 9612 01-494 9613 01-494 9614 01-494 9615 01-494 9616 01-494 9617 01-494 9618 01-494 9619 01-494 9620 01-494 9621 01-494 9622 01-494 9623 01-494 9624 01-494 9625 01-494 9626 01-494 9627 01-494 9628 01-494 9629 01-494 9630 01-494 9631 01-494 9632 01-494 9633 01-494 9634 01-494 9635 01-494 9636 01-494 9637 01-494 9638 01-494 9639 01-494 9640 01-494 9641 01-494 9642 01-494 9643 01-494 9644 01-494 9645 01-494 9646 01-494 9647 01-494 9648 01-494 9649 01-494 9650	Equity & Law 100 Victoria Road, London E14 4AG 01-494 9651 01-494 9652 01-494 9653 01-494 9654 01-494 9655 01-494 9656 01-494 9657 01-494 9658 01-494 9659 01-494 9660 01-494 9661 01-494 9662 01-494 9663 01-494 9664 01-494 9665 01-494 9666 01-494 9667 01-494 9668 01-494 9669 01-494 9670 01-494 9671 01-494 9672 01-494 9673 01-494 9674 01-494 9675 01-494 9676 01-494 9677 01-494 9678 01-494 9679 01-494 9680 01-494 9681 01-494 9682 01-494 9683 01-494 9684 01-494 9685 01-494 9686 01-494 9687 01-494 9688 01-494 9689 01-494 9690 01-494 9691 01-494 9692 01-494 9693 01-494 9694 01-494 9695 01-494 9696 01-494 9697 01-494 9698 01-494 9699 01-494 9700	Hearts of Oak Benefit Society 100 Victoria Road, London E14 4AG 01-494 9701 01-494 9702 01-494 9703 01-494 9704 01-494 9705 01-494 9706 01-494 9707 01-494 9708 01-494 9709 01-494 9710 01-494 9711 01-494 9712 01-494 9713 01-494 9714 01-494 9715 01-494 9716 01-494 9717 01-494 9718 01-494 9719 01-494 9720 01-494 9721 01-494 9722 01-494 9723 01-494 9724 01-494 9725 01-494 9726 01-494 9727 01-494 9728 01-494 9729 01-494 9730 01-494 9731 01-494 9732 01-494 9733 01-494 9734 01-494 9735 01-494 9736 01-494 9737 01-494 9738 01-494 9739 01-494 9740 01-494 9741 01-494 9742 01-494 9743 01-494 9744 01-494 9745 01-494 9746 01-494 9747 01-494 9748 01-494 9749 01-494 9750	Legal & General (Unit Funds) Ltd 100 Victoria Road, London E14 4AG 01-494 9751 01-494 9752 01-494 9753 01-494 9754 01-494 9755 01-494 9756 01-494 9757 01-494 9758 01-494 9759 01-494 9760 01-494 9761 01-494 9762 01-494 9763 01-494 9764 01-494 9765 01-494 9766 01-494 9767 01-494 9768 01-494 9769 01-494 9770 01-494 9771 01-494 9772 01-494 9773 01-494 9774 01-494 9775 01-494 9776 01-494 9777 01-494 9778 01-494 9779 01-494 9780 01-494 9781 01-494 9782 01-494 9783 01-494 9784 01-494 9785 01-494 9786 01-494 9787 01-494 9788 01-494 9789 01-494 9790 01-494 9791 01-494 9792 01-494 9793 01-494 9794 01-494 9795 01-494 9796 01-494 9797 01-494 9798 01-494 9799 01-494 9800	Mutual Life Assurance Ltd 100 Victoria Road, London E14 4AG 01-494 9801 01-494 9802 01-494 9803 01-494 9804 01-494 9805 01-494 9806 01-494 9807 01-494 9808 01-494 9809 01-494 9810 01-494 9811 01-494 9812 01-494 9813 01-494 9814 01-494 9815 01-494 9816 01-494 9817 01-494 9818 01-494 9819 01-494 9820 01-494 9821 01-494 9822 01-494 9823 01-494 9824 01-494 9825 01-494 9826 01-494 9827 01-494 9828 01-494 9829 01-494 9830 01-494 9831 01-494 9832 01-494 9833 01-494 9834 01-494 9835 01-494 9836 01-494 9837 01-494 9838 01-494 9839 01-494 9840 01-494 9841 01-494 9842 01-494 9843 01-494 9844 01-494 9845 01-494 9846 01-494 9847 01-494 9848 01-494 9849 01-494 9850	Legal & General (Unit Funds) Ltd 100 Victoria Road, London E14 4AG 01-494 9851 01-494 9852 01-494 9853 01-494 9854 01-494 9855 01-494 9856 01-494 9857 01-494 9858 01-494 9859 01-494 9860 01-494 9861 01-494 9862 01-494 9863 01-494 9864 01-494 9865 01-494 9866 01-494 9867 01-494 9868 01-494 9869 01-494 9870 01-494 9871 01-494 9872 01-494 9873 01-494 9874 01-494 9875 01-494 9876 01-494 9877 01-494 9878 01-494 9879 01-494 9880 01-494 9881 01-494 9882 01-494 9883 01-494 9884 01-494 9885 01-494 9886 01-494 9887 01-494 9888 01-494 9889 01-494 9890 01-494 9891 01-494 9892 01-494 9893 01-494 9894 01-494 9895 01-494 9896 01-494 9897 01-494 9898 01-494 9899 01-494 9900
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FT UNIT TRUST INFORMATION SERVICE

LONDON SHARE SERVICE

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Money Market Trust Funds

[illegible]

Money Market Bank Accounts

[illegible]

INDUSTRIALS (Miscel.) - Contd[illegible]

27

MINES – Contd

1997			Price	+/-	Stk	Yr1	Yr2
	Low	Stock			Net		%
40		Maximo Pacific ASD200	75				
41		Maximo Pacific ASD200	75	-2			
42		Winback Etc 50c	72				
43		Winback Etc 50c	72				
44		Winback Etc 50c	72				
45		Winback Etc 50c	72				
46		Winback Etc 50c	72				
47		Winback Etc 50c	72				
48		Winback Etc 50c	72				
49		Winback Etc 50c	72				
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98		Winback Etc 50c	72				
99		Winback Etc 50c	72				
100		Winback Etc 50c	72				

Ben Margaret Gold	46	+6
Agent Mining 20c	9	
Agent 50c		

[illegible]

Long 15p	150	
and \$M1	130	

[illegible]

Scot Group 10p	175	—
Green Am Pet 10p	26	+3

[illegible]

cos Hldgs.	10	
cos Holdings	46	+1
cos 1st	32	

10	Black	252			
15	Black	252	12.61	2.51	19.8
20	Black	252	12.61	2.51	19.8
25	Black	252	12.61	2.51	19.8
30	Black	252	12.61	2.51	19.8
35	Black	252	12.61	2.51	19.8
40	Black	252	12.61	2.51	19.8
45	Black	252	12.61	2.51	19.8
50	Black	252	12.61	2.51	19.8
55	Black	252	12.61	2.51	19.8
60	Black	252	12.61	2.51	19.8
65	Black	252	12.61	2.51	19.8
70	Black	252	12.61	2.51	19.8
75	Black	252	12.61	2.51	19.8
80	Black	252	12.61	2.51	19.8
85	Black	252	12.61	2.51	19.8
90	Black	252	12.61	2.51	19.8
95	Black	252	12.61	2.51	19.8
100	Black	252	12.61	2.51	19.8

report awaited
by UK listed; dealings permitted u
listed on Stock Exchange and con

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al earnings. In Forecast, or es
over based on previous year's
vided cover in excess of 100 Un

REGIONAL & IRISH STOCKS
The following is a selection of regional and Irish stocks, the latter

66	+1	Fin. 13% 97/10
650	+25	Arnotts
92		201-111

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44
28

[illegible]

_____	35	Interest
_____	30	Cash Gold
_____	62	Loans

Leite & Spencer	26	RTZ	48
Johnson Co.	47		
Johnson Controls	37		

A selection of options listed is given on the
London Stock Exchange Report Page

WORLD STOCK MARKETS

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CANADA

Sales	Stock	High	Low	Open	Close	High	Low	Open	Close	Sales	Stock	High	Low	Open	Close	Sales	Stock	High	Low	Open	Close
TORONTO																					
Closing prices December 22																					
16025 AMCA Int	309	94	94	94	94	94	94	94	94	16025 AMCA Int	309	94	94	94	94	16025 AMCA Int	309	94	94	94	94
16027 Alcan	310	94	94	94	94	94	94	94	94	16027 Alcan	310	94	94	94	94	16027 Alcan	310	94	94	94	94
16028 Alcan	311	94	94	94	94	94	94	94	94	16028 Alcan	311	94	94	94	94	16028 Alcan	311	94	94	94	94
16029 Alcan	312	94	94	94	94	94	94	94	94	16029 Alcan	312	94	94	94	94	16029 Alcan	312	94	94	94	94
16030 Alcan	313	94	94	94	94	94	94	94	94	16030 Alcan	313	94	94	94	94	16030 Alcan	313	94	94	94	94
16031 Alcan	314	94	94	94	94	94	94	94	94	16031 Alcan	314	94	94	94	94	16031 Alcan	314	94	94	94	94
16032 Alcan	315	94	94	94	94	94	94	94	94	16032 Alcan	315	94	94	94	94	16032 Alcan	315	94	94	94	94
16033 Alcan	316	94	94	94	94	94	94	94	94	16033 Alcan	316	94	94	94	94	16033 Alcan	316	94	94	94	94
16034 Alcan	317	94	94	94	94	94	94	94	94	16034 Alcan	317	94	94	94	94	16034 Alcan	317	94	94	94	94
16035 Alcan	318	94	94	94	94	94	94	94	94	16035 Alcan	318	94	94	94	94	16035 Alcan	318	94	94	94	94
16036 Alcan	319	94	94	94	94	94	94	94	94	16036 Alcan	319	94	94	94	94	16036 Alcan	319	94	94	94	94
16037 Alcan	320	94	94	94	94	94	94	94	94	16037 Alcan	320	94	94	94	94	16037 Alcan	320	94	94	94	94
16038 Alcan	321	94	94	94	94	94	94	94	94	16038 Alcan	321	94	94	94	94	16038 Alcan	321	94	94	94	94
16039 Alcan	322	94	94	94	94	94	94	94	94	16039 Alcan	322	94	94	94	94	16039 Alcan	322	94	94	94	94
16040 Alcan	323	94	94	94	94	94	94	94	94	16040 Alcan	323	94	94	94	94	16040 Alcan	323	94	94	94	94
16041 Alcan	324	94	94	94	94	94	94	94	94	16041 Alcan	324	94	94	94	94	16041 Alcan	324	94	94	94	94
16042 Alcan	325	94	94	94	94	94	94	94	94	16042 Alcan	325	94	94	94	94	16042 Alcan	325	94	94	94	94
16043 Alcan	326	94	94	94	94	94	94	94	94	16043 Alcan	326	94	94	94	94	16043 Alcan	326	94	94	94	94
16044 Alcan	327	94	94	94	94	94	94	94	94	16044 Alcan	327	94	94	94	94	16044 Alcan	327	94	94	94	94
16045 Alcan	328	94	94	94	94	94	94	94	94	16045 Alcan	328	94	94	94	94	16045 Alcan	328	94	94	94	94
16046 Alcan	329	94	94	94	94	94	94	94	94	16046 Alcan	329	94	94	94	94	16046 Alcan	329	94	94	94	94
16047 Alcan	330	94	94	94	94	94	94	94	94	16047 Alcan	330	94	94	94	94	16047 Alcan	330	94	94	94	94
16048 Alcan	331	94	94	94	94	94	94	94	94	16048 Alcan	331	94	94	94	94	16048 Alcan	331	94	94	94	94
16049 Alcan	332	94	94	94	94	94	94	94	94	16049 Alcan	332	94	94	94	94	16049 Alcan	332	94	94	94	94
16050 Alcan	333	94	94	94	94	94	94	94	94	16050 Alcan	333	94	94	94	94	16050 Alcan	333	94	94	94	94
16051 Alcan	334	94	94	94	94	94	94	94	94	16051 Alcan	334	94	94	94	94	16051 Alcan	334	94	94	94	94
16052 Alcan	335	94	94	94	94	94	94	94	94	16052 Alcan	335	94	94	94	94	16052 Alcan	335	94	94	94	94
16053 Alcan	336	94	94	94	94	94	94	94	94	16053 Alcan	336	94	94	94	94	16053 Alcan	336	94	94	94	94
16054 Alcan	337	94	94	94	94	94	94	94	94	16054 Alcan	337	94	94	94	94	16054 Alcan	337	94	94	94	94
16055 Alcan	338	94	94	94	94	94	94	94	94	16055 Alcan	338	94	94	94	94	16055 Alcan	338	94	94	94	94
16056 Alcan	339	94	94	94	94	94	94	94	94	16056 Alcan	339	94	94	94	94	16056 Alcan	339	94	94	94	94
16057 Alcan	340	94	94	94	94	94	94	94	94	16057 Alcan	340	94	94	94	94	16057 Alcan	340	94	94	94	94
16058 Alcan	341	94	94	94	94	94	94	94	94	16058 Alcan	341	94	94	94	94	16058 Alcan	341	94	94	94	94
16059 Alcan	342	94	94	94	94	94	94	94	94	16059 Alcan	342	94	94	94	94	16059 Alcan	342	94	94	94	94
16060 Alcan	343	94	94	94	94	94	94	94	94	16060 Alcan	343	94	94	94	94	16060 Alcan	343	94	94	94	94
16061 Alcan	344	94	94	94	94	94	94	94	94	16061 Alcan	344	94	94	94	94	16061 Alcan	344	94	94	94	94
16062 Alcan	345	94	94	94	94	94	94	94	94	16062 Alcan	345	94	94	94	94	16062 Alcan	345	94	94	94	94
16063 Alcan	346	94	94	94	94	94	94	94	94	16063 Alcan	346	94	94	94	94	16063 Alcan	346	94	94	94	94
16064 Alcan	347	94	94	94	94	94	94	94	94	16064 Alcan	347	94	94	94	94	16064 Alcan	347	94	94	94	94
16065 Alcan	348	94	94	94	94	94	94	94	94	16065 Alcan	348	94	94	94	94	16065 Alcan	348	94	94	94	94
16066 Alcan	349	94	94	94	94	94	94	94	94	16066 Alcan	349	94	94	94	94	16066 Alcan	349	94	94	94	94
16067 Alcan	350	94	94	94	94	94	94	94	94	16067 Alcan	350	94	94	94	94	16067 Alcan	350	94	94	94	94
16068 Alcan	351	94	94	94	94	94	94	94	94	16068 Alcan	351	94	94	94	94	16068 Alcan	351	94	94	94	94
16069 Alcan	352	94	94	94	94	94	94	94	94	16069 Alcan	352	94	94	94	94	16069 Alcan	352	94	94	94	94
16070 Alcan	353	94	94	94	94	94	94	94	94	16070 Alcan	353	94	94	94	94	16070 Alcan	353	94	94	94	94
16071 Alcan	354	94	94	94	94	94	94	94	94	16071 Alcan	354	94	94	94	94	16071 Alcan	354	94	94	94	94
16072 Alcan	355	94	94	94	94	94	94	94	94	16072 Alcan	355	94	94	94	94	16072 Alcan	355	94	94	94	94
16073 Alcan	356	94	94	94	94	94	94	94	94	16073 Alcan	356	94	94	94	94	16073 Alcan	356	94	94	94	94
16074 Alcan	357	94	94	94	94	94	94	94	94	16074 Alcan	357	94	94	94	94	16074 Alcan	357	94	94	94	94
16075 Alcan	358	94	94	94	94	94	94	94	94	16075 Alcan	358	94	94	94	94	16075 Alcan	358	94	94	94	94
16076 Alcan	359	94	94	94	94	94	94	94	94	16076 Alcan	359	94	94	94	94	16076 Alcan	359	94	94	94	94
16077 Alcan	360	94	94	94	94	94	94	94	94	16077 Alcan	360	94	94	94	94	16077 Alcan	360	94	94	94	94
16078 Alcan	361	94	94	94	94	94	94	94	94	16078 Alcan	361	94	94	94	94	16078 Alcan	361	94	94	94	94
16079 Alcan	362	94	94	94	94	94	94	94	94	16079 Alcan	362	94	94	94	94	16079 Alcan	362	94	94	94	94
16080 Alcan	363	94	94	94	94	94	94	94	94	16080 Alcan	363	94	94	94	94	16080 Alcan	363	94	94	94	94
16081 Alcan	364	94	94	94	94	94	94	94	94	16081 Alcan	364	94	94	94	94	16081 Alcan	364	94	94	94	94
16082 Alcan	365	94	94	94	94	94	94	94	94	16082 Alcan	365	94	94	94	94	16082 Alcan	365	94	94	94	94
16083 Alcan	366	94	94	94	94	94	94	94	94	16083 Alcan	366	94	94	94	94	16083 Alcan	366	94	94	94	94
16084 Alcan	367	94	94	94	94	94	94	94	94	16084 Alcan	367	94	94	94	94	16084 Alcan	367	94	94	94	94
16085 Alcan	368	94	94	94	94	94	94	94	94	16085 Alcan	368	94	94	94	94	16085 Alcan	368	94	94	94	94
16086 Alcan	369	94	94	94	94	94	94	94	94	16086 Alcan	369	94	94	94	94	16086 Alcan	369	94	94	94	94
16087 Alcan	370	94	94	94	94	94	94	94	94	16087 Alcan	370	94	94	94	94	16087 Alcan	370	94	94	94	94
16088 Alcan	371	94	94	94	94	94	94	94	94	16088 Alcan	371	94	94	94	94	16088 Alcan	371	94	94	94	94
16089 Alcan	372	94	94	94	94	94	94	94	94	16089 Alcan	372	94	94	94	94	16089 Alcan	372	94	94	94	94
16090 Alcan	373	94	94	94	94	94	94	94	94	16090 Alcan	373	94	94	94	94	16090 Alcan	373	94	94	94	94
16091 Alcan	374	94	94	94	94	94	94	94	94	16091 Alcan	374	94	94	94	94	16091 Alcan	374	94	94	94	94
16092 Alcan	375	94	94	94	94	94	94	94	94	16092 Alcan	375	94	94	94	94	16092 Alcan	375	94	94	94	94
16093 Alcan	376	94	94	94	94	94	94	94	94	16093 Alcan	376	94	94	94	94	16093 Alcan	376	94	94	94	94
16094 Alcan	377	94	94	94	94	94	94	94	94	16094 Alcan	377	94	94	94	94	16094 Alcan	377	94	94	94	94
16095 Alcan	378	94	94	94	94	94	94														

OVER-THE-COUNTER

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CHIEF LONDON PRICE CHANGES YESTERDAY

(Prices in pence unless otherwise indicated)				
	RISES			
Abbeys Life	341	+ 8	Fitzkings	280
Blue Cross	454	+ 121	Royal Bank of Scot.	31
Endy Ship	709	+	Windsor	961
Enterprise Oil	274	+ 16	Winney (George)	239
Grand Met.	456	+ 14	Woodward Hlde.	270
LASMO	34	+ 15		
M & G Group	31	+ 31	FALLS	
Northern Foods	393	+ 17	BTB	368
Pearl Group	406	+ 18	Bristol	453
			Crucial	412
			Countdown	348

TOKYO - Most Active Stocks

Thursday December 22 1987			
	Stocks	Closing	Change
	Prices	Prices	on day
Nippon Steel	17.00	981	+20
Japan Synthetic	16.60	978	+20
Rohsen	13.50	976	+20
Daiichi Steel	8.80	723	+11
Sanyo Kokusaku Poly	8.80	723	+11
Ishikawajima-Harima Heavy Ind	8.70	662	+23
Nishi-Fukuroki	7.00	625	+16
Somuto Co.	7.00	625	+16
Shiden Steel	6.90	610	+16
Nippon Kasei	6.80	599	+31
Shimizu Steel	5.90	345	+31

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FINANCIAL TIMES
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USE

Continued on Page 2

AMEX COMPOSITE CLOSING PRICES

Continued from Page 39

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AMEX COMPOSITE CLOSING PRICES

Stock	Div	P/E	52 Wk High	Low	Close	Change	Stock	Div	P/E	52 Wk High	Low	Close	Change	Stock	Div	P/E	52 Wk High	Low	Close	Change	Stock	Div	P/E	52 Wk High	Low	Close	Change	
AT&T		312	72	14	71	+	DI Ind			1	1			basf		9	725	11	1		Procter	1	81	62	55	3	24	+
Amoco		52	14	14	14	+	DOW			1	1			basf		9	725	11	1		Procter	1	81	62	55	3	24	+
Amstar		5	18	14	14	+	DOW			1	1			basf		9	725	11	1		Procter	1	81	62	55	3	24	+
Amstar		5	18	14	14	+	DOW			1	1			basf		9	725	11	1		Procter	1	81	62	55	3	24	+
Amstar		5	18	14	14	+	DOW			1	1			basf		9	725	11	1		Procter	1	81	62	55	3	24	+
Amstar		5	18	14	14	+	DOW			1	1			basf		9	725	11	1		Procter	1	81	62	55	3	24	+
Amstar		5	18	14	14	+	DOW			1	1			basf		9	725	11	1		Procter	1	81	62	55	3	24	+
Amstar		5	18	14	14	+	DOW			1	1			basf		9	725	11	1		Procter	1	81	62	55	3	24	+
Amstar		5	18	14	14	+	DOW			1	1			basf		9	725	11	1		Procter	1	81	62	55	3	24	+
Amstar		5	18	14	14	+	DOW			1	1			basf		9	725	11	1		Procter	1	81	62	55	3	24	+
Amstar		5	18	14	14	+	DOW			1	1			basf		9	725	11	1		Procter	1	81	62	55	3	24	+
Amstar		5	18	14	14	+	DOW			1	1			basf		9	725	11	1		Procter	1	81	62	55	3	24	+
Amstar		5	18	14	14	+	DOW			1	1			basf		9	725	11	1		Procter	1	81	62	55	3	24	+
Amstar		5	18	14	14	+	DOW			1	1			basf		9	725	11	1		Procter	1	81	62	55	3	24	+
Amstar		5	18	14	14	+	DOW			1	1			basf		9	725	11	1		Procter	1	81	62	55	3	24	+
Amstar		5	18	14	14	+	DOW			1	1			basf		9	725	11	1		Procter	1	81	62	55	3	24	+
Amstar		5	18	14	14	+	DOW			1	1			basf		9	725	11	1		Procter	1	81	62	55	3	24	+
Amstar		5	18	14	14	+	DOW			1	1			basf		9	725	11	1		Procter	1	81	62	55	3	24	+
Amstar		5	18	14	14	+	DOW			1	1			basf		9	725	11	1		Procter	1	81	62	55	3	24	+
Amstar		5	18	14	14	+	DOW			1	1			basf		9	725	11	1		Procter	1	81	62	55	3	24	+
Amstar		5	18	14	14	+	DOW			1	1			basf		9	725	11	1		Procter	1	81	62	55	3	24	+
Amstar		5	18	14	14	+	DOW			1	1			basf		9	725	11	1		Procter	1	81	62	55	3	24	+
Amstar		5	18	14	14	+	DOW			1	1			basf		9	725	11	1		Procter	1	81	62	55	3	24	+
Amstar		5	18	14	14	+	DOW			1	1			basf		9	725	11	1		Procter	1	81	62	55	3	24	+
Amstar		5	18	14	14	+	DOW			1	1			basf		9	725	11	1		Procter	1	81	62	55	3	24	+
Amstar		5	18	14	14	+	DOW			1	1			basf		9	725	11	1		Procter	1	81	62	55	3	24	+
Amstar		5	18	14	14	+	DOW			1	1			basf		9	725	11	1		Procter	1	81	62	55	3	24	+
Amstar		5	18	14	14	+	DOW			1	1			basf		9	725	11	1		Procter	1	81	62	55	3	24	+
Amstar		5	18	14	14	+	DOW			1	1			basf		9	725	11	1		Procter	1	81	62	55	3	24	+
Amstar		5	18	14	14	+	DOW			1	1			basf		9	725	11	1		Procter	1	81	62	55	3	24	+
Amstar		5	18	14	14	+	DOW			1	1			basf		9	725	11	1		Procter	1	81	62	55	3	24	+
Amstar		5	18	14	14	+	DOW			1	1			basf		9	725	11	1		Procter	1	81	62	55	3	24	+
Amstar		5	18	14	14	+	DOW			1	1			basf		9	725	11	1		Procter	1	81	62	55	3	24	+
Amstar		5	18	14	14	+	DOW			1	1			basf		9	725	11	1		Procter	1	81	62	55	3	24	+
Amstar		5	18	14	14	+	DOW			1	1			basf		9	725	11	1		Procter	1	81	62	55	3	24	+
Amstar		5	18	14	14	+	DOW			1	1			basf		9	725	11	1		Procter	1	81	62	55	3	24	+
Amstar		5	18	14	14	+	DOW			1	1			basf		9	725	11	1		Procter	1	81	62	55	3	24	+
Amstar		5	18	14	14	+	DOW			1	1			basf		9	725	11	1		Procter	1	81	62	55	3	24	+
Amstar		5	18	14	14	+	DOW			1	1			basf		9	725	11	1		Procter	1	81	62	55	3	24	+
Amstar		5	18	14	14	+	DOW			1	1			basf		9	725	11	1		Procter	1	81	62	55	3	24	+
Amstar		5	18	14	14	+	DOW			1	1			basf		9	725	11	1		Procter	1	81	62	55	3	24	+
Amstar		5	18	14	14	+	DOW			1	1			basf		9	725	11	1		Procter	1	81	62	55	3	24	+
Amstar		5	18	14	14	+	DOW			1	1			basf		9	725	11	1		Procter	1	81	62	55	3	24	+
Amstar		5	18	14	14	+	DOW			1	1			basf		9	725	11	1		Procter	1	81	62	55	3	24	+
Amstar		5	18	14	14	+	DOW			1	1			basf		9	725	11	1		Procter	1	81	62	55	3	24	+
Amstar		5	18	14	14	+	DOW			1	1			basf		9	725	11	1		Procter	1	81	62	55	3	24	+
Amstar		5	18	14	14	+	DOW			1	1			basf		9	725	11	1		Procter	1	81	62	55	3	24	+
Amstar		5	18	14	14	+	DOW			1	1			basf		9	725	11	1		Procter	1	81	62	55	3	24	+
Amstar		5	18	14	14	+	DOW			1	1			basf		9	725	11	1		Procter	1	81	62	55	3	24	+
Amstar		5	18	14	14	+	DOW			1	1			basf		9	725	11	1		Procter	1	81	62	55	3	24	+
Amstar		5	18	14	14	+	DOW			1	1			basf		9	725	11	1		Procter	1	81	62	55	3	24	+
Amstar		5	18	14	14	+	DOW			1	1			basf		9	725	11	1		Procter	1	81	62	55	3	24	+
Amstar		5	18	14	14	+	DOW			1	1			basf		9	725	11	1		Procter	1	81	62	55	3	24	+
Amstar		5	18	14	14	+	DOW			1	1			basf		9	725	11	1		Procter	1	81	62	55	3	24	+
Amstar		5	18	14	14	+	DOW			1	1			basf		9	725	11	1		Procter	1	81	62	55	3	24	+
Amstar		5	18	14	14	+	DOW			1	1			basf		9	725	11	1		Procter	1	81	62	55	3	24	+
Amstar		5	18	14	14	+	DOW			1	1			basf		9	725	11	1		Procter	1	81	62	55	3	24	+
Amstar		5	18	14	14	+	DOW			1	1			basf		9	725	11	1		Procter	1	81	62	55	3	24	+
Amstar		5	18	14	14	+	DOW			1	1			basf		9	725	11	1		Procter	1	81	62	55	3	24	+
Amstar		5	18	14	14	+	DOW			1	1			basf		9	725	11	1		Procter	1	81	62	55	3	24	+
Amstar		5	18	14	14	+	DOW			1	1			basf		9	725	11	1		Procter	1	81	62	55	3	24	+
Amstar		5	18	14	14	+	DOW			1	1			basf		9	725	11	1		Procter	1	81	62	55	3	24	+
Amstar		5	18	14	14	+	DOW			1	1			basf		9	725	11	1		Procter	1	81	62	55	3	24	+
Amstar		5	18	14	14	+	DOW			1	1			basf		9	725	11	1		Procter	1	81	62	55	3	24	+
Amstar		5	18	14	14	+	DOW			1	1			basf		9	725	11	1		Procter	1	81	62	55	3	24	+
Amstar		5	18	14	14	+	DOW			1	1			basf		9	725	11	1		Procter	1	81	62	55	3	24	+
Amstar		5	18	14	14	+	DOW			1	1			basf		9	725	11	1		Procter	1	81	62	55	3	24	+
Amstar		5	18	14	14	+	DOW			1	1			basf		9	725	11	1		Procter	1	81	62	55	3	24	+
Amstar		5	18	14	14	+	DOW			1	1			basf		9	725	11	1		Procter	1	81	62	55	3	24	+
Amstar		5	18	14	14	+	DOW			1	1			basf		9	725	11										

OVER-THE-COUNTER *Nasdaq national market, closing prices*

Stock	Sales (thous)	High	Low	Last	Chng	Stock	Sales (thous)	High	Low	Last	Chng	Stock	Sales (thous)	High	Low	Last	Chng	Stock	Sales (thous)	High	Low	Last	Chng	
Aavtrid	126 325	10 1/2	10 1/4	10 1/4	+	ChicoTc	14 938	15 1/2	14 1/2	15 1/2	+	PhyRe	34	13	12 1/2	12 1/2	-	LTX	32	368	13 1/2	12 1/2	12 1/2	+
Ad	15 102	10 1/4	10 1/4	10 1/4	+	Chiron	22	125	14 1/2	13 1/2	+	PhyRe	34	13	12 1/2	12 1/2	-	LTX	32	368	13 1/2	12 1/2	12 1/2	+
ADST	9 447	8	7 1/2	7 1/2	-	Chiron	22	125	14 1/2	13 1/2	+	PhyRe	34	13	12 1/2	12 1/2	-	LTX	32	368	13 1/2	12 1/2	12 1/2	+
Admco	32 118	10 1/2	10 1/2	10 1/2	+	Chiron	22	125	14 1/2	13 1/2	+	PhyRe	34	13	12 1/2	12 1/2	-	LTX	32	368	13 1/2	12 1/2	12 1/2	+
Admco	32 118	10 1/2	10 1/2	10 1/2	+	Chiron	22	125	14 1/2	13 1/2	+	PhyRe	34	13	12 1/2	12 1/2	-	LTX	32	368	13 1/2	12 1/2	12 1/2	+
Admco	32 118	10 1/2	10 1/2	10 1/2	+	Chiron	22	125	14 1/2	13 1/2	+	PhyRe	34	13	12 1/2	12 1/2	-	LTX	32	368	13 1/2	12 1/2	12 1/2	+
Admco	32 118	10 1/2	10 1/2	10 1/2	+	Chiron	22	125	14 1/2	13 1/2	+	PhyRe	34	13	12 1/2	12 1/2	-	LTX	32	368	13 1/2	12 1/2	12 1/2	+
Admco	32 118	10 1/2	10 1/2	10 1/2	+	Chiron	22	125	14 1/2	13 1/2	+	PhyRe	34	13	12 1/2	12 1/2	-	LTX	32	368	13 1/2	12 1/2	12 1/2	+
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Admco	32 118	10 1/2	10 1/2	10 1/2	+	Chiron	22	125	14 1/2	13 1/2	+	PhyRe	34	13	12 1/2	12 1/2	-	LTX	32	368	13 1/2	12 1/2	12 1/2	+
Admco	32 118	10 1/2	10 1/2	10 1/2	+	Chiron	22	125	14 1/2	13 1/2	+	PhyRe	34	13	12 1/2	12 1/2	-	LTX	32	368	13 1/2	12 1/2	12 1/2	+
Admco	32 118	10 1/2	10 1/2	10 1/2	+	Chiron	22	125	14 1/2	13 1/2	+	PhyRe	34	13	12 1/2	12 1/2	-	LTX	32	368	13 1/2	12 1/2	12 1/2	+
Admco	32 118	10 1/2	10 1/2	10 1/2	+	Chiron	22	125	14 1/2	13 1/2	+	PhyRe	34	13	12 1/2	12 1/2	-	LTX	32	368	13 1/2	12 1/2	12 1/2	+
Admco	32 118	10 1/2	10 1/2	10 1/2	+	Chiron	22	125	14 1/2	13 1/2	+	PhyRe	34	13	12 1/2	12 1/2	-	LTX	32	368	13 1/2	12 1/2	12 1/2	+
Admco	32 118	10 1/2	10 1/2	10 1/2	+	Chiron	22	125	14 1/2	13 1/2	+	PhyRe	34	13	12 1/2	12 1/2	-	LTX	32	368	13 1/2	12 1/2	12 1/2	+
Admco	32 118	10 1/2	10 1/2	10 1/2	+	Chiron	22	125	14 1/2	13 1/2	+	PhyRe	34	13	12 1/2	12 1/2	-	LTX	32	368	13 1/2	12 1/2	12 1/2	+
Admco	32 118	10 1/2	10 1/2	10 1/2	+	Chiron	22	125	14 1/2	13 1/2	+	PhyRe	34	13	12 1/2	12 1/2	-	LTX	32	368	13 1/2	12 1/2	12 1/2	+
Admco	32 118	10 1/2	10 1/2	10 1/2	+	Chiron	22	125	14 1/2	13 1/2	+	PhyRe	34	13	12 1/2	12 1/2	-	LTX	32	368	13 1/2	12 1/2	12 1/2	+
Admco	32 118	10 1/2	10 1/2	10 1/2	+	Chiron	22	125	14 1/2	13 1/2	+	PhyRe	34	13	12 1/2	12 1/2	-	LTX	32	368	13 1/2	12 1/2	12 1/2	+
Admco	32 118	10 1/2	10 1/2	10 1/2	+	Chiron	22	125	14 1/2	13 1/2	+	PhyRe	34	13	12 1/2	12 1/2	-	LTX	32	368	13 1/2	12 1/2	12 1/2	+
Admco	32 118	10 1/2	10 1/2	10 1/2	+	Chiron	22	125	14 1/2	13 1/2	+	PhyRe	34	13	12 1/2	12 1/2	-	LTX	32	368	13 1/2	12 1/2	12 1/2	+
Admco	32 118	10 1/2	10 1/2	10 1/2	+	Chiron	22	125	14 1/2	13 1/2	+	PhyRe	34	13	12 1/2	12 1/2	-	LTX	32	368	13 1/2	12 1/2	12 1/2	+
Admco	32 118	10 1/2	10 1/2	10 1/2	+	Chiron	22	125	14 1/2	13 1/2	+	PhyRe	34	13	12 1/2	12 1/2	-	LTX	32	368	13 1/2	12 1/2	12 1/2	+
Admco	32 118	10 1/2	10 1/2	10 1/2	+	Chiron	22	125	14 1/2	13 1/2	+	PhyRe	34	13	12 1/2	12 1/2	-	LTX	32	368	13 1/2	12 1/2	12 1/2	+
Admco	32 118	10 1/2	10 1/2	10 1/2	+	Chiron	22	125	14 1/2	13 1/2	+	PhyRe	34	13	12 1/2	12 1/2	-	LTX	32	368	13 1/2	12 1/2	12 1/2	+
Admco	32 118	10 1/2	10 1/2	10 1/2	+	Chiron	22	125	14 1/2	13 1/2	+	PhyRe	34	13	12 1/2	12 1/2	-	LTX	32	368	13 1/2	12 1/2	12 1/2	+
Admco	32 118	10 1/2	10 1/2	10 1/2	+	Chiron	22	125	14 1/2	13 1/2	+	PhyRe	34	13	12 1/2	12 1/2	-	LTX	32	368	13 1/2	12 1/2	12 1/2	+
Admco	32 118	10 1/2	10 1/2	10 1/2	+	Chiron	22	125	14 1/2	13 1/2	+	PhyRe	34	13	12 1/2	12 1/2	-	LTX	32	368	13 1/2	12 1/2	12 1/2	+
Admco	32 118	10 1/2	10 1/2	10 1/2	+	Chiron	22	125	14 1/2	13 1/2	+	PhyRe	34	13	12 1/2	12 1/2	-	LTX	32	368	13 1/2	12 1/2	12 1/2	+
Admco	32 118	10 1/2	10 1/2	10 1/2	+	Chiron	22	125	14 1/2	13 1/2	+	PhyRe	34	13	12 1/2	12 1/2	-	LTX	32	368	13 1/2	12 1/2	12 1/2	+
Admco	32 118	10 1/2	10 1/2	10 1/2	+	Chiron	22	125	14 1/2	13 1/2	+	PhyRe	34	13	12 1/2	12 1/2	-	LTX	32	368	13 1/2	12 1/2	12 1/2	+
Admco	32 118	10 1/2	10 1/2	10 1/2	+	Chiron	22	125	14 1/2	13 1/2	+	PhyRe	34	13	12 1/2	12 1/2	-	LTX	32	368	13 1/2	12 1/2	12 1/2	+
Admco	32 118	10 1/2	10 1/2	10 1/2	+	Chiron	22	125	14 1/2	13 1/2	+	PhyRe	34	13	12 1/2	12 1/2	-	LTX	32	368	13 1/2	12 1/2	12 1/2	+
Admco	32 118	10 1/2	10 1/2	10 1/2	+	Chiron	22	125	14 1/2	13 1/2	+	PhyRe	34	13	12 1/2	12 1/2	-	LTX	32	368	13 1/2	12 1/2	12 1/2	+
Admco	32 118	10 1/2	10 1/2	10 1/2	+	Chiron	22	125	14 1/2	13 1/2	+	PhyRe	34	13	12 1/2	12 1/2	-	LTX	32	368	13 1/2	12 1/2	12 1/2	+
Admco	32 118	10 1/2	10 1/2	10 1/2	+	Chiron	22	125	14 1/2	13 1/2	+	PhyRe	34	13	12 1/2	12 1/2	-	LTX	32	368	13 1/2	12 1/2	12 1/2	+
Admco	32 118	10 1/2	10 1/2	10 1/2	+	Chiron	22	125	14 1/2	13 1/2	+	PhyRe	34	13	12 1/2	12 1/2	-	LTX	32	368	13 1/2	12 1/2	12 1/2	+
Admco	32 118	10 1/2	10 1/2	10 1/2	+	Chiron	22	125	14 1/2	13 1/2	+	PhyRe	34	13	12 1/2	12 1/2	-	LTX	32	368	13 1/2	12 1/2	12 1/2	+
Admco	32 118	10 1/2	10 1/2	10 1/2	+	Chiron	22	125	14 1/2	13 1/2	+	PhyRe	34	13	12 1/2	12 1/2	-	LTX	32	368	13 1/2	12 1/2	12 1/2	+
Admco	32 118	10 1/2	10 1/2	10 1/2	+	Chiron	22	125	14 1/2	13 1/2	+	PhyRe	34	13	12 1/2	12 1/2	-	LTX	32	368	13 1/2	12 1/2	12 1/2	+
Admco	32 118	10 1/2	10 1/2	10 1/2	+	Chiron	22	125	14 1/2	13 1/2	+	PhyRe	34	13	12 1/2	12 1/2	-	LTX	32	368	13 1/2	12 1/2	12 1/2	+
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Admco	32 118	10 1/2	10 1/2	10 1/2	+	Chiron	22	125	14 1/2	13 1/2	+	PhyRe	34	13	12 1/2	12 1/2	-	LTX	32	368	13 1/2	12 1/2	12 1/2	+
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Admco	32 118	10 1/2	10 1/2	10 1/2	+	Chiron	22	125	14 1/2	13 1/2	+	PhyRe	34	13	12 1/2	12 1/2	-	LTX	32	368	13 1/2	12 1/2	12 1/2	+
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Admco	32 118	10 1/2	10 1/2	10 1/2	+	Chiron	22	125	14 1/2	13 1/2	+	PhyRe	34	13	12 1/2	12 1/2	-	LTX	32	368	13 1/2	12 1/2	12 1/2	+
Admco	32 118	10 1/2	10 1/2	10 1/2	+	Chiron	22	125	14 1/2	13 1/2	+	PhyRe	34	13	12 1/2	12 1/2	-	LTX	32	368	13 1/2	12 1/2	12 1/2	+
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Admco	32 118	10 1/2	10 1/2	10 1/2	+	Chiron	22	125	14 1/2	13 1/2	+	PhyRe	34	13	12 1/2	12 1/2	-	LTX	32	368	13 1/2	12 1/2	12 1/2	+
Admco	32 118	10 1/2	10 1/2	10 1/2	+	Chiron	22	125	14 1/2	13 1/2	+	PhyRe	34	13	12 1/2	12 1/2	-	LTX	32	368	13 1/2	12 1/2	12 1/2	+
Admco	32																							

Continued on Page 29

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AMERICA

Lack of signals sends Dow into listless decline

Wall Street

US EQUITIES continued to show little over-all direction, dropping yesterday after gaining modestly on Monday, writes Janet Bush in New York.

There seem to be few underlying reasons for day-to-day swings. The Dow Jones Industrial Average recovered an earlier loss of more than 40 points to close only 11.83 points lower at 1,978.45, reversing part of Monday's 15.08 gain.

Yesterday morning, both bonds and equities had put in a lacklustre performance in spite of the fact that Congress had finally resolved its differences over the bill to cut the budget deficit. The dollar showed very little reaction.

The US currency was also unimpressed by the actual signing of the spending bill yesterday afternoon by President Reagan and reports that the widely-expected statement by the Group of Seven industrial countries would be published during Tokyo trading early today.

The dollar was quoted unchanged from its mid-session levels yesterday at around ¥125.35 and DM1.0270, near to its session lows.

Trading on currency markets was thin as many institutions have already closed their books for the Christmas holidays. However, when volume rises again to more normal levels, deep scepticism about any vague Group of Seven statement planned could begin to surface.

The US Treasury bond market yesterday weakened, extending Monday's price falls in quiet business. The Treasury's 30-year 8.75 per cent issue closed around 110.04, lower, to yield 9.04 per cent.

In the equity market, a degree of uncertainty persists about how long the market can sustain the recovery which has, with some interludes, been in place since early November. This uncertainty means investors are taking any opportunity to take profits when the market rises.

Among blue chip issues, IBM recovered from a mid-session decline to close only 3/4 lower at \$118. News emerged yesterday that the company intends to form a partnership with Super-computer Systems, formed in

October by prominent designer Steve Chen, to develop advanced computing systems. Cray Research, Mr Chen's former employer, dropped 3/4 to \$70.4.

Eastman Kodak closed 1/4 lower at \$49 1/2 in spite of its announcement of a joint venture with Matsushita Electrical Group to build a production facility to manufacture batteries.

Argonaut Group's share plunged 3/4 to \$30 1/2 after news that its merger agreement with Gibbons, Green, Van Amerongen had been terminated. Under the agreement, Argonaut would have been bought for \$55 a share in a combination of cash and securities.

The merger failed because of radical market movements since the merger agreement on October 4 had significantly changed the planned financing. Argonaut's announcement yesterday that it would buy back up to 2m of its common shares did little to bolster the share price.

There was substantial activity in shares subject to takeover rumours yesterday. Pfizer jumped 3/4 to \$49 1/2 on rumours that the company could be the subject of a takeover attempt at \$60 a share or more. Some of the suitors rumoured are Hoechst of West Germany, General Electric of the US, and Du Pont.

Atlantic Richfield, profiting along with other oil companies from a sharp rise in crude oil futures yesterday afternoon, ended 3/4 higher at \$67 1/2.

The composite index, which had earlier dropped about 28 points, recovered slightly in late trading to close down 13.50 at 3,156.80. Falls outpaced advances by 479 to 444 on modest active volume of 28.3m shares.

"Today is the last day for tax-loss selling in Canada," said David Wilkes of Moss, Lawson and Co Ltd. "There is some weakness because of that."

Canada

Toronto stocks closed lower as profit-taking in mining issues and tax-related selling drove the market down.

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SOUTH AFRICA

WITH little change in the bullion price to offer the market a lead, Johannesburg gold shares extended Monday's easier trend in diminishing trade.

Vaal Reefs fell another R7 to R335 among heavyweight golds, while at the cheaper end of the sector Libanon gave up 96 cents to R12.80. Mining financials followed suit

as Anglo American dipped 25 cents to R55.75.

Other miners continued to take a lead from cheaper golds. In platinum, Impala was 30 cents cheaper at R28.25 and leading diamond De Beers shed 25 cents also to R28.25. Other miners were steady where traded. Industrials ended narrowly mixed.

David Dodwell takes stock of some of the winners and losers in one of this year's most badly bruised markets

Perplexed Hong Kong is still licking its wounds

THE RETIREMENT early this month of Mr Ronald Li as chairman of Hong Kong's Stock Exchange marks the end of an era in more ways than one.

He would have hoped to enter the history books as the man who almost single-handedly forged Hong Kong's four stock exchanges into one in April last year, and then catapulted the new exchange into the international big league.

His ambitions might have succeeded, through a combination of determination and bare-faced audacity, had it not been for the "meltdown" of October 19, from which Hong Kong's listed companies emerged worse off than almost any others worldwide.

Today, unbowed by critics who say he ruined the reputation of Hong Kong's securities industry by shutting the exchange down, Mr Li can make no grander claim than that he has over-

seen the exchange through an important period of transition, as an international market.

Early in October, it appeared certain that he would retire in a blaze of glory. The Hang Seng index was pressing close to the 4,000 level, having risen from about 2,500 at the start of the year.

Hong Kong appeared the darling of the international investing community. More than 30 companies were queuing for listing on the market, and more than HK\$40bn (\$5bn) had been raised by companies over the year. Among numerous successful new listings, two were oversubscribed more than 200 times, with moderate prices seen by many as a virtual licence to print money.

A buoyant - some would say overheated - economy underpinned rises in corporate profits of 60 to 120 per cent, making the most ambitious price/earnings ratio appear moderate over a short period.

October 19 changed all of this. After a controversial four-day closure during which Hong Kong stockbrokers watched the debacle on other markets and sat paralysed in their own share prices plunged further than in any other market worldwide.

Hang Seng index stocks slumped an average of more than 43 per cent, while second-line stock lost up to 80 per cent of their value. More than HK\$220bn was wiped off the stock market's capitalisation.

For many of Hong Kong's blue chips, the experience was perplexing. Many were reporting profits growth of 60 per cent to 120 per cent, carried negligible debt and had business prospects that were not in any obvious way jeopardised by the equity market collapse.

For second-line stocks, where trading is traditionally thin and highly speculative, the collapse had more serious implications. Mr Robert Ng,

whose family controls the property group Sino-Land, is understood to owe about HK\$900m in the wake of the parallel collapse of the local futures market.

Two of the territory's most controversial young entrepreneurs were also mauled - Mr Joseph Lau, the head of Evergo and its sister companies Chinese Estates and China Entertainment, and Mr Tony Wong, who heads the publishing group Jade Man. Mr Lau has not yet disclosed how heavy a debt burden he now carries, but Mr Wong recently revealed write-offs amounting to more than HK\$150m due to stock market losses.

Mr Li Kashing, who heads Cheung Kong, as well as Hutchison Whampoa, Hong Kong Electric and the new group, Cavendish International, was among the few to emerge richer. In that HK\$10bn rights issue, planned before the collapse, went

ahead in spite of the crash, with a churlish group of underwriters having to pay prices far above those prevailing in the wake of the crash.

As a result, Mr Li is cash rich when potential takeover targets worldwide carry price tags significantly lower than two months ago. After making his international mark by taking a substantial minority stake in Canada's Husky Oil, and then a holding in Cable and Wireless of the UK, many feel it will not be long before further major acquisitions are planned.

Inevitably, the crash put an end to flotation plans for a number of companies. For some analysts, the proposal to float Club Volvo, which is little more than a profitable up-market grille-bar, the crash might have come as a blessing. But on the other hand, it is a pity the first listing by a mainland Chinese company, the Guangdong International Trust

and Investment - did not come to fruit.

Many stock-market operators say the crash may bring more good than harm in the long term. The tighter regulation that will almost certainly emerge following a Government-appointed inquiry will eradicate some of the abuses that in the past have gone unchecked.

Reforms that have aroused controversy over the course of the year - over two-tier share structures, "back-door listings," and legislation aimed at inhibiting insider trading - will all receive firmer backing than in the past have been possible.

No-one can yet predict what changes will follow the inquiry led by Mr Ian Hay Davidson into the past failings of the securities industry, but confidence remains high that changes will be comprehensive, and will restore the necessary investor confidence.

Balancing act at year-end provides modest advances

London

EUROPEAN bourses made steady, if slight, progress with institutional book-balancing before the year's end proving a greater influence than international signals.

FRANKFURT slipped from a gently firmer opening to end as a trade-tailed off before Christmas. The Commerzbank index was 8 1/2 higher at 1,352.6.

Carmakers continued a strong spell, Porsche in particular surging DM17 to DM457, though the rise was largely attributed to a few buying orders in a market. BMW rose DM6 to DM477 and Daimler 60 pf to DM615.50. VW edged DM1.50 higher to DM236.50.

Banks cheapened a touch. Deutsche rose DM2 off at DM411.50 and Dresdner DM1 down at DM237.50. Commerzbank eased DM1.50 to DM225.

Chemicals edged higher with the exception of pharmaceuticals, which lost DM4.50 to DM384.50. Retailers Kaufland and Karstadt kept up recent good form, adding DM12.50 to DM430 and DM7 to DM454, but also was another DM4 off at DM575 and Massas DM3 lower at DM224.

ZUKOR rose slightly on the steady dollar. The Swiss index was 5.2 higher at 780.3.

Insurers saw a flurry of trade against a thin market as Swiss Re climbed SF200 to SF12,500 and Winterthur SF75 to SF1,950. Credit Suisse picked up SF20 to SF2,450, but Union Bank was SF245 weaker at SF3,080.

Engineers were narrowly mixed, but chemicals generally firmed. Ciba-Geigy putting on SF60 to SF2,620 and Sandos SF300 to SF12,500.

AMSTERDAM lost early impetus on Wall Street's hesitant opening. The CBS tendency all-share index closed steady at 66.1. International blue chips ended mostly lower on softness in New

York, though KLM added 60 cents to Ft 29.70. Nedlloyd also moved higher, by Ft 1 to Ft 19.80. BREUSSELS moved ahead on selective buying. The cash index rose 34 to 3,543.32 after having risen 5 the previous session. Monday's index was not calculated on the day due to a computer mishap.

In holdings, Reserve added a further Bfr30 to Bfr2,070, while GBL was Bfr35 up also at Bfr2,070. Utilities and chemicals continued to advance. UCB rose Bfr250 to Bfr7,150.

PARIS closed down but off its worst in fairly active session at the end of the accounting period. The bourse indicator edged 0.96 per cent off.

Blue chips were mixed, but Midi added FF737 to FF1,220. Lafarge-Coppee FF14 to FF1,245.

MADRID ended mixed on selective profit-taking after Monday's solid gains. The general index closed 0.47 higher at 2,337.4.

MILAN crept higher in light trade. The MIS index finished 3.0 up at 697.0. Montedison ended a recent slide with a 1/2 gain to 1,358.

STOCKHOLM made a minute advance as institutions balanced their books before the holidays. The Affarsvarlden general index edged 0.1 higher to 680.4.

OSLO inched higher in lacklustre trade. The all-share index closed 1.97 up at 250.28.

ASIA

Pension fund sales accelerate slide

Tokyo

LIGHT selling in the absence of institutional interest in the market dragged equities lower in Tokyo yesterday, writes Shigeo Nishiwaki of Jiji Press.

The Nikkei average turned down 215.82 to 22,741.02. Volume shrank from Monday's 599.31m to 403.98m shares. Declines outnumbered advances by 636 to 240, with 144 issues unchanged.

After a firmer start reflecting the previous day's moderate rally and continued strength on Wall Street overnight, the market eased, helped down by news that pension funds had sold some holdings through trust banks before their year-end settlements of accounts.

In the absence of market leaders speculative funds concentrated on a segment of smaller capitalisation issues. Among these, Japan Synthetic Rubber gained ¥20 to ¥931 on the day's second biggest volume of 15.61m shares as investors renewed their interest in a paper-thin cell being developed by the group.

Jusco climbed ¥80 to ¥1,580 on the assessment that the supermarket chain operator stands to benefit from the strong yen because of its high import ratio.

Shipments drew interest almost across the board. Shioya Shipping surged ¥31 to ¥345, Yamashita-Shinriho Steamship ¥8 to ¥222 and Shinwa Kairu ¥13 to ¥300.

Among issues related to plant and equipment investment, Yagawa Electric strengthened ¥20 to ¥1,480 on expectations of stronger demand for measuring instruments. Nachi-Fujikoshi closed ¥18 down at ¥573 after rising ¥13 at one stage.

The high-technology sector, meanwhile, weakened broadly on small-lot selling. Hitachi fell ¥40 to ¥1,200, while Matsushita Electric Industrial closed ¥30 down at ¥2,180 after firming ¥30 at one stage. Fujitsu shed ¥30 to ¥1,210 and Nippon Telegraph and Telephone, one of the previous session's main gainers, lost ¥30,000 to ¥2,360.

Among pharmaceuticals, Takeda Chemical Industries and Yamanouchi Pharmaceutical plunged ¥70 each to ¥3,000 and ¥3,910.

Large-capitals stayed out of favour. Nippon Steel, the busiest issue with 17.07m shares traded, weakened ¥5 to ¥398. Ishikawa-Jima-Harima Heavy Industries declined ¥25 to ¥682 and Nippon Kokan ¥4 to ¥300.

Large-capitals chemicals were also hurt. Sumitomo chemical skidded ¥17 to ¥597.

Bonds moved sideways, ending a three-day falling streak in yields due to uncertainty about the course of US interest rates.

Investors awaited a decision, expected tomorrow, by the Ministry of Finance on issuance terms for the 10-year government bonds in January.

The yield on the ballwater 5.0 per cent government bond due in December 1997 rose from Monday's 4.515 per cent to 4.550 per cent after falling at one point to 4.480 per cent.

On the Osaka Securities Exchange, the OSE Stock Average shed 147.57 to 23,078.57 on a volume of 108.16m shares, up 13.58m from Monday.

One pharmaceutical slipped ¥200 to ¥6,500 and Maruichi Steel Tube ¥50 to ¥1,500.

Australia

CONTINUED demand for base metal miners and industrial issues left Sydney share prices higher in moderate trade after a consistently buoyant session. The All Ordinaries index ended 17.6 higher at 1,267.8.

Gold also edged higher following a 12 cent gain for Western Mining to A\$5.92 on news of a planned Canadian purchase. Bell Resources added 17 cents to A\$1.42 on news it had sold its

remaining stake in Texaco. MTM advanced 18 cents to A\$1.95, while Bougainville and Comalco each made up 12 cents to A\$2.85 and A\$2.85.

Singapore

A SUSTAINED search for bargains among quality issues, led by domestic institutional investors, led Singapore shares to their seventh successive firmer close. The Straits Times industrial index rose 15.53 to 825.49.

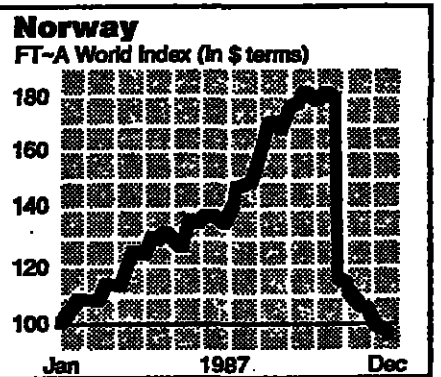
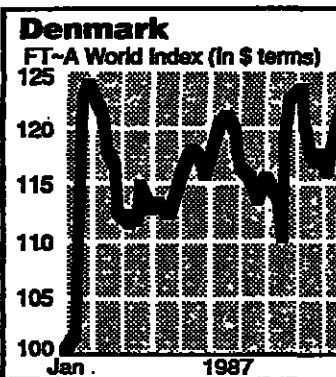
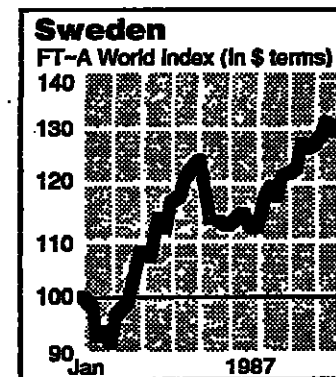
Fraser and Neave continued its strong run with a 30 cent rise to S\$7.75, while ICS added 40 cents to S\$2.09, while plantation stocks generally rose on stronger palm oil prices.

Hong Kong

GUSTS of profit-taking checked mild bids to rally Hong Kong share prices, leaving the market mixed by the close. The Hang Seng index ended 1.72 up at 2,276.41.

Commercial and industrial issues found support against generally weaker utilities and properties. Jardine Matheson added 40 cents to HK\$10.30, but Hutchison Whampoa fell 5 cents to HK\$7.10.

THE YEAR IN FOCUS



Jointly compiled by the Financial Times, Goldman Sachs & Co. and Wood Mackenzie & Co. Ltd. in conjunction with the Institute of Actuaries and the Faculty of Actuaries.

FT - ACTUARIES WORLD INDICES

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NATIONAL AND REGIONAL MARKETS	TUESDAY DECEMBER 22 1987					MONDAY DECEMBER 21 1987					DOLLAR INDEX		
	US Dollar Index	Day's Change %	Pound Sterling Index	Local Currency Index	Gross Div. Yield	US Dollar Index	Pound Sterling Index	Local Currency Index	1987 High	1987 Low	Year ago (approx)		
Figures in parentheses show number of stocks per grouping													
Australia (88)	99.03	+1.6	80.21	92.46	4.47	97.47	79.12	90.83	180.81	85.36	99.94		
Austria (16)	96.51	-0.6	78.17	81.81	2.56	97.11	78.83	82.47	102.87	85.53	96.66		
Belgium (48)	96.82	+1.4	78.41	81.77	5.77	97.51	77.52	80.91	134.89	94.63	97.03		
Canada (127)	109.90	-0.6	89.01	103.89	2.99	110.51	89.70	104.59	141.78	98.15	100.44		
Denmark (38)	113.45	-0.1	91.88	96.82	3.05	113.56	92.18	97.15	124.83	98.18	98.51		
France (121)	95.88	-0.3	69.56	74.16	3.57	96.13	69.91	74.61	121.82	77.99	102.41		
West Germany (93)	77.63	+0.7	62.88	65.72	2.88	77.06	62.95	66.46	104.68	68.91	97.75		
Hong Kong (61)	88.16	+0.5	71.41	88.08	5.68	87.69	71.18	87.42	158.68	73.92	96.91		
Ireland (14)	105.36	+1.6	85.33	91.08	4.97	103.67	84.15	89.75	160.22	93.50	97.99		
Italy (94)	78.02	+0.6	63.19	69.81	2.74	77.55	62.95	69.50	122.71	72.04	98.16		
Japan (457)	123.51	-0.5	116.23	114.84	3.60	124.27	117.10	115.81	161.28	100.00	97.62		
Malaysia (24)	108.80	+0.0	88.12	104.68	3.45	108.49	88.35	104.41	195.64	96.74	98.74		
Mexico (14)	103.21	+0.3	83.59	253.34	1.18	102.92	83.54	252.63	422.59	99.72	98.35		
Netherlands (37)	97.45	-0.2	78.93	81.53	5.50	97.65	79.26	81.91	131.41	87.70	99.46		
New Zealand (20)	74.59	+1.6	60.42	61.05	5.51	73.99	59.57	60.26	138.99	73.99	98.48		
Norway (22)	99.80	+1.1	80.83	86.32	3.16	98.69	80.10	85.53	135.01	93.51	98.04		
Sweden (26)	96.49	+2.3	78.15	88.97	2.72	94.35	76.59	87.16	174.28	81.21	100.90		
South Africa (61)	132.07	-1.2	106.97	90.23	4.73	133.72	108.54	91.36	198.09	100.00	102.01		
Spain (43)	133.14	+1.2	107.84	111.61	3.74	131.61	106.83	110.62	168.81	100.00	97.62		
Switzerland (34)	92.38	+0.0	80.47	87.18	2.62	99.36	80.65	87.37	136.64	88.50	97.53		
Switzerland (53)	82.45	+0.8	66.78	67.65	2.44	81.78	66.38	67.36	111.11	73.65	97.81		
United Kingdom (332)	131.45	+0.2	106.46	106.46	4.37	131.15	106.45	106.45	162.87	99.65	97.05		
USA (580)	101.65	+0.0	82.93	101.65	3.64	101.62	82.48	101.62	137.42	91.21	101.98		
Europe (947)	103.77	+0.4	84.05	86.51	3.89	103.41	83.94	86.42	130.02	92.25	98.05		
Pacific Basin (673)	139.64	-0.4	113.10	112.87	0.81	140.25	113.84	113.70	158.77	100.00	97.70		
Europe-Pacific (1620)	125.33	-0.2	101.51	102.33	1.94	124.55	101.91	102.80	143.65	100.00	97.84		
North America (707)	102.08	+0.0	82.68	101.79	3.61	102.09	82.87	101.80	157.55	92.68	101.90		
Europe Ex. UK (615)	86.61	-0.5	70.15	73.95	3.45	86.20	69.97	73.82	111.97	78.89	98.69		
Pacific Ex. Japan (216)	92.89	+0.7	75.24	77.97	2.76	92.48	74.48	76.45	102.92	82.92	98.79		
World Ex. US (182)	124.84	-0.2	101.13	102.38	1.92	125.11	101.95	102.87	143.08	100.00	97.98		
World Ex. UK (2070)	114.35	-0.2	92.61	101.70	2.28	114.53	92.97	102.05	138.82	100.00	99.78		
World Ex. So. Af. (2341)	115.76	-0.1	93.75	102.20	4.48	115.89	94.07	102.50	139.47	100.00	99.52		
World Ex. Japan (1945)	102.63	+0.1	83.12	95.87	3.76	102.48	83.18	95.82	149.22	92.98	100.45		
The World Index (2402)	115.86	-0.1	93.84	102.14	2.49	116.00	94.16	102.45	139.73	100.00	99.53		